THE NEW YORK HERALD.

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THE BROADWAY CALAMITY.

INVESTIGATION BEFORE CORONER HILTON.

Important Evidence of the Carpenter Relative to the Walls of the Building.

THE FUNERAL CEREMONIES, &c., &c., &c.

At the appointed hour yesterday morning, the Coroner and jury met at the Hospital, and by the suggestion of Mr. Genin the place of holding the investigation was removed to the Astor House, room No. 43. Prior to taking the testimony, the Coroner announced to the jury that the unknown body supposed to have been Wilson, had been recognised to be that of Henry Christman, aged 19 years, a native of this city, who on that night was running with Engine 44. The brother of deceased, residing at 126 Willett street, identified the deceased by the clothing and a mark upon his arm. This last body makes ten dead, which is all that have as yet come under the cognizance of the Coroner.

EVIDENCE OF MR. MILLS.

After organizing at the Astor House, the first witness called was

Zophar Mills, who being sworn, said:—I reside at 207 Madison street; I am an exempt fireman, and now one of the Trustees of the Fire Department; I was formerly President of the department; the fire in question was at 231 Broadway; I was at my house when I heard the fire bell strike; I dressed in my fire clothes and ran to the fire; I immediately went into the building to the second story; this was about 8 o'clock; when I arrived in front of the building I noticed the upper stories on fire; the flames were coming out of the upper windows; the front building was six stories high and probably forty feet deep, with an extension in the rear of two stories, covering the balance of the lot, about sixty feet; when I went into the building I saw the stairs on fire; the flames were coming down from the third story; Twenty-one's pipe was there, and arranging the hose to go to work in the second story, and in a few minutes the water was thrown on the fire, which led from the second to the third story; their stream stopped the fire from coming down; I then turned my attention to the rear part of the building; on this extension in re was a large skylight; through that skylight I could see the reflection of the flames pouring out from the windows in the front building; a ladder was then brought into the second floor, and one end thrust through the skylight to enable the firemen to get on the roof of the rear building; I went on the roof, and so did several others; I then saw the urgent necessity of having water there to prevent the fire extending to the other building; I called to Assistant Engineer Howard, in order that he might send up a pipe of water, for had that been done, and a stream of water played on the main building, the great heat would have kept them off sufficiently distant on the rear roof, where they would have been safe; notwithstanding the falling of the wall, Engineer Howard instantly came up the ladder on the roof to take a view of it, and immediately ordered the hose to come up; I then went down the ladder, to assist in getting a line; when about half way down the ladder, the rear wall of the front building fell and carried down with it about half the roof of the rear extension; carrying both floors down to the first floor or cellar; I was on the ladder at the time, and of course descended with it; I scrambled out as well as I could; it was all dark, dust and smoke; my fire cap was knocked off by a timber, and I received a bruise on my shoulder and other parts of my body; the instant I saw a gleam of light I crawled out through the ruins towards Broadway; on my way out I passed over and felt two men, who appeared to be fastened down by the timbers; they were groaning and calling for help; the first man I saw after I got out was Mr. Matsell, the Chief of Police; he stood near the front door; I told him men were under the ruins; I called also to the firemen that there were others in there buried in the ruins; the front wall on Broadway was then standing, as if nothing was the matter; the beams of the first floor seemed to be perfect, and also those on the second floor; I then went to No. 42 engine house, in Murray street, and procured another fire cap, and while I was away, on my return I was told that portions of the front building fell; I then went through the American Hotel to the rear of the building, for the purpose of assisting in rescuing the men who were then under the ruins; I had to climb over a wall to get to the rear.

Witness here remarked—I should like now to give my opinion as to the cause of this falling.

Coroner—Well, proceed.

Witness—The rear wall of the upper four stories of the front building was supported by iron girders or arches, which extended from side to side clear across the building, the ends being inserted in the walls of the adjoining buildings; the building in question had no walls of its own; the object of having these girders was evidently to form a large saleroom, and the rear wall of the front building had been taken away to form a continuous room or open space between the first and second stories of the rear extension. The iron girder appears to have been very improperly secured; in fact, one end of it scarcely rested on anything, and the other projected from the bricks; it can be seen now. This fact, in my opinion, caused the girder to cant over, which threw the wall out of plumb and caused it to fall. This rear wall appears to me to have been like a trap door, not being supported by any side wall, apparently having no connection, and ready to fall at any moment by the tilting of the girder either one side or the other. This is my judgment in the matter. As the fire had not been burning over twenty minutes, the beams were not burnt through, nor had the fire progressed far enough to cause any danger. On the south side of the building, next to the American Hotel, there appears to have been a ledge of bricks run up, of four inches, being the width of one brick; this is all that supported the beams on that side; I did not notice whether the beams were in addition let into the main wall of the hotel; on the north side of the building some few of the beams were let into the wall of the next building, but a large portion of them appeared to be let into trimmer beams, having no direct connection with the main wall of the adjoining building; when this rear wall fell I suppose some part of it fell outside and other portions inside, resting there a few moments on the beams, carrying them down with it, which was the occasion of the second disaster; the front building I consider was the most insecure I ever witnessed; in fact, all of those iron girders are very dangerous, especially when they support a wall; and the vibration will always tend to loosen them; in fact, this front building is the most miserably constructed one I ever saw, patched up evidently from a dwelling house, having no proper wall erected to support itself; and my only wonder is that it did not fall by its own weight, without any fire.

To Mr. Genin, foreman of the jury—If this building had been built since the law passed, the owner would be liable to a fine of $500, and after being notified, $50 for every twenty four hours until it had been removed; I never saw a building fall so soon after the fire; I have seen thousands of buildings burned, and I never saw one fall so soon before; I had not the least idea of its falling, nor had any one else; the beams were burnt but very little; we never expect a wall to fall until the roof gives way, or some of the beams, but in this case the wall fell and the roof was still on; the falling of the building was, in my opinion, caused by the very improper manner of its construction.

EVIDENCE OF MR. MILLER.

James L. Miller, being duly sworn, deposed—That he was a carpenter, and lived at No. 363 Broome street; he altered the building, which was originally a dwelling house, he should judge from appearances; had been altered at the time when he worked on it, which was in 1841 or '42; it had been altered previously; could not say what time it was altered, but it had been altered by lowering the beams of the first story, to make an easy access to the store from the street; the law in relation to the erection of buildings is that eight inch walls may be erected to the height of thirty-five feet; the building had the appearance of having complied with the fire laws, by having an additional four inch wall built up side by side with the old one; this was done to make the wall twelve inches thick, so as to comply with the fire laws; the building has been altered, he should judge, at two different times—that is, once before he altered it himself—once to a four story building, and the second time to six stories; the fire laws require that an eight inch wall shall not be made higher than thirty five feet; the alteration in the walls must have taken place in 1842, because he had no recollection of its having been altered since; by building a wall twelve inches in thickness it may be reared up as high as the party might see fit; witness had examined the building, and found that in some places the rear wall had the appearance of having been sustained by a party wall four inches thick, and in some places no party wall was traceable; witness did not examine it as thoroughly as he might have done; examined it on Thursday afternoon; the wall is not a proper one to be used in the construction of a building of that kind; the timbers had nothing to rest upon, except this party wall; the fire law in relation to matters of this description is, that no wall already built shall be increased in strength by adding to its thickness; the building, in his opinion, was not a proper one for the purposes it was used for; the great fault was that it had been altered many times, without taking into consideration the purposes for which it was originally erected, namely, a dwelling house; witness agreed with what Mr. Mills, the first witness, said in reference to the building of a back wall, except where he states the iron girder was perfectly safe; in this wall the girder was not laid in a proper manner; in the building in question this girder was not put up in a proper manner, and the wall built over it was not put up properly; it was too slight; it had the appearance of being a good wall, but was too slight—not of sufficient thickness; it should not have been less than twelve inches thick; they did not comply with the law in this particular, it being only eight inches thick.

Coroner.—Q. Whose duty was it to see that the walls should be of sufficient thickness?

A. It was the duty of the fire wardens of that district; in many cases it is very difficult for them to attend to the proper construction of buildings, as they are often put up at night, so as to elude the eyes of that body; fire wardens have no authority as to the materials to be used in the construction, or the mechanical work; it is to the thickness of walls they are authorized to attend; it is their duty to see that walls are constructed of the required thickness in proportion to their height; they have also many other little things to attend to, such as seeing that flues are not built nearer than four inches to any beams, and to see that the beams are properly inserted in the walls.

Coroner.—Q. Is there a law relative to the inserting of timbers?

A. There is not, except that, as I said before, they are not to be placed too near flues; they have nothing else to do with the manner of inserting timbers in the walls; the law does not prevent the cutting off of timbers and supporting them by props.

Coroner.—Q. Who were the parties who owned the building in 1842?

A. John C. Hamilton owned the corner, and I think Dr. McVicar owned the building.

Q. Who were the alterations made by?

A. To the best of my knowledge they were made by the party leasing the building, Wm. B. Cozzens; the hall partition was then taken away, as the building was occupied in the upper part as a dwelling, and the well hole where the stairs went up was filled up; in erecting buildings for dwelling houses we never put such strong timbers as we would in a building for a store, and taking away the stairway and hall weakened the strength of the floors; it is not always safe to take out hall partitions.

Coroner—Q. Was it safe in this case?

A. At that time I think it was, for the upper stories were occupied as parlors by the hotel; the store underneath was occupied as a clothing store by the occupants at the time of the fire, W. T. Jennings & Co.; the company consisted of Mr. Henry Mendle; witness considered the way in which the store was occupied lately as highly dangerous, for the least overloading would precipitate the whole building to the cellar without a fire; the building had been patched, pieced and altered so many times that he considered it unsafe, even though no fire should have taken place; at the time of the alteration he was in the employ of James J. Scott; there were other alterations made at that time by Mr. Cozzens, who had other carpenters inside. The owner also made some alterations, but could not say what these alterations consisted of; since the alteration he considered the building sufficiently strong to be made a warehouse or a building to hold goods, such as bales of cloth; could not say who the alterations were made by, but had been informed since he came into the room that they were made by Mr. Ketcham and Mr. Frost; the former was the carpenter and the latter the mason; the front of the building had the appearance of being a good and substantial one, except that it was not fastened to any of the other side walls; it was sixteen inches thick to the second story, above that twelve inches; the front wall should have been tied in or anchored with the side walls; it was built up between them without any fastening whatever, except mortar; the way he judged that there were no anchors was, that they would have remained in the side walls, or have shown some appearance of having been torn out; was not present at the fire.

Juror. Did you ever hear any complaint made against the building?

A. I can't say that I have; the front had an appearance to deceive a practical man.

Juror—Was the building made another story higher before or after you altered it?

A. After; there are several other buildings in this city just as unsafe as this one; there is one at the corner of Broadway and Park place; do not think that any buildings originally erected for dwellings are safe for store purposes; there is a building formerly occupied as Rathbun's Hotel, in which, I understand, a safe of 2,800 pounds has been placed, and if that building does take fire the safe will come down from floor to floor; the building as a whole was not safe and calculated for the purposes for which it was used; he had been engaged in the business for the last twenty years, and he had never seen such a bad case as that of the building in question; he could, however, point out a dozen buildings quite as dangerous as the one in question, some of which have been reported as dangerous by the Fire Wardens; there is no fire law that can reach a building after it has been erected eighteen months; after that an injunction has to be issued from one of the courts against the building as a nuisance; a large number of buildings have been reported by the Fire Wardens as dangerous, but no notice was taken of it by the Common Council; witness heard the last annual report of the Fire Wardens read, and many buildings of this character were spoken of, and the places so spoken of were designated.

Juror—Q. When a Fire Warden discovers a building unsafe, does he report to the Common Council?

A. No; the Fire Wardens report once a year to the Common Council; but just as soon as they find an unsafe building, they make the Chief Engineer aware of it; witness thought it to be the duty of the Common Council to see that no such unsafe buildings are allowed to stand; has never seen them take any other course when a report is made, than ordering it to be printed.

Juror—Q. Do you think that twelve fire wardens can perform the duties allotted to them in a proper manner?

A.—No, sir; I think that the present number of men (12) is insufficient. When they take into consideration the great number of buildings erected, it would take two men, at least, to attend to each ward. The salary of the fire wardens is only $500 per year, and is insufficient to pay them, if they discharge their duties properly. It is not expected that these twelve men should give undivided attention to their duty. Witness had been a fire warden when the law made it binding upon the Assistant Engineers to perform the duties of that office. The law, however, was altered, and was only in force for one year, not being found to work well.

It being now about 1¾ o'clock, the Coroner adjourned the inquest until 10 o'clock this morning, out of respect to one of the victims of the late catastrophe, John B. O'Donnell, whose funeral was to take place at 2 o'clock.

FUNERALS OF THE VICTIMS.

FUNERAL OF JOHN AUBICK KEYSER—THE CEREMONIES IN SAINT JAMES' CHURCH.

The remains of this lamented young man were removed from the residence of his parents, in Houston street, yesterday afternoon, and conveyed to the Saint James' (Lutheran) church, in Mulberry street, where the coffin was placed on a bier standing immediately in front of the reading desk. The coffin was very rich, and surmounted with the usual breastplate, inscribed with the name and age of the deceased. Upon the lid lay a garland of white flowers.

In the pews fronting the coffin sat the parents, brothers, sisters and immediate relatives of the deceased, and at three o'clock every other seat in the body of the church was filled with ladies and gentlemen, who formed a very large, respectable and sincerely sympathizing congregation.

The members of City Hose Company No. 8 were placed at the foot of the coffin. They were dressed in deep mourning, and wore their badges shrouded with crape. One bore the fire cap of Keyser, which was also covered with black silk crape. As the people entered the church, they walked up the right aisle, and took a last look at the swollen—but not disfigured—countenance of their departed friend.

At half past three o'clock, the Rev. Dr. Brice and Rev. Mr. Schalck, accompanied by the pall bearers, came from the vestry, when the choir gave forth a requiem hymn. Rev. Mr. Schalck ascended the reading desk and offered up a prayer, after which the 443d Psalm was chaunted.

The reverend gentleman then took for his text the words of our Saviour in the garden of Gethsemane, when he said:—"Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me;" but immediately after added, "Not my will, but thine be done." The reverend gentleman from this preached a sermon full of consolation, exhorting all to drink the cup—though bitter—with patience, because it is presented by a loving God. At the conclusion he gave prayer; after which the coffin was conveyed from the church by eight pall bearers, and taken to the family vault in the cemetery at Second street.

Mr. Keyser was a bookkeeper in the office of Messrs. Ockershausen, sugar refiners, who closed their establishment yesterday afternoon so that those in their employ might have an opportunity of paying their last tribute of respect to his memory. Their appearance at the funeral in a body produced much impression and feeling.

FUNERAL OF MICHAEL FLYNN.

The funeral of Michael Flynn, one of the sufferers by the Broadway calamity, took place yesterday, at 1 P. M., from his father's residence, No. 53 Walker street. A large number of friends and relatives assembled at the hour appointed, to pay a last sad tribute to the memory of the deceased, and a train of ten mourning coaches were in attendance, waiting to accompany the body to its final resting place, in Calvary Cemetery. Many members of the Whitehall Benevolent Association joined in the procession shortly after leaving the house, and gave it quite an imposing appearance. One of the most interesting features of the occasion was the presence of a large number of the juvenile friends of the deceased, youths, whose ages ranged between fifteen and eighteen years, who joined in the sad ceremonies of the occasion. The funeral procession passed through Walker street to Broadway, and thence over the ferry to Williamsburg, where the remains of the deceased were interred.

FUNERAL OF ANDREW C. SCHENCK.

The obsequies of this unfortunate young man were performed yesterday afternoon at the residence of his brother, William R. Schenck, Jr., No. 79 West Thirteenth street. It will be remembered that poor Schenck was taken from the ruins in a mangled condition, and removed to the dead house of the City Hospital, where he lay till the Coroner granted his friends permission to remove the body. Young Schenck was a member of Hook and Ladder Company No. 1, and was highly esteemed by his brother firemen. A very large company assembled yesterday to perform the last sad duties to the deceased. The members of his fire company were out in full, together with the members of the second company of the National Guard, in citizens' dress. After the usual funeral ceremonies were performed at the house, the coffin, bearing the name of its occupant, time of his birth, death, and age, (24 years and 6 months,) upon a heavy silver plate, was placed in the hearse, and taken to Greenwood Cemetery, followed by a long train of carriages filled with mourners. The engine house of this company is handsomely draped in mourning in respect for their departed friend.

FUNERAL OF JOHN B. O'DONNELL.

The obsequies of John B. O'Donnell, one of the members of Engine Co. No. 42, were celebrated yesterday. The remains of the deceased were conveyed from the residence of his father, Coroner O'Donnell, in Oliver street, to the Catholic Church, where the funeral service was read, after which they were deposited in the vaults of Calvary Church. The funeral was attended by the members of Engine Co. No. 42, and a large number of the friends of the family. Upon the coffin was the following inscription:—

JOHN B. O'DONNELL,
Died April 26, 1854,
Aged 22 years.

The deceased had been, at the time of his death, a member of Engine Co. No. 42 over two years and a half, and was respected by his brother firemen for his noble qualities, among which his self devotion and intrepidity were conspicuous. We have already given a detailed account of the manner in which he lost his life, and the heroic endurance and manly fortitude with which he bore his sufferings; but we forgot to state that it was in the attempt to rescue others he was killed. In the great loss which his family have sustained, the thought of this fact will serve in some degree to alleviate the deep grief into which they, along with so many others, have been plunged by the terrible catastrophe of Tuesday night.

FUNERAL OF GEORGE REINHARD.

The remains of George Reinhard, another of the victims of the late catastrophe, were interred yesterday in New York Bay Cemetery, to which they were followed by a large concourse of his friends, among whom were the members of Engine Company No. 11, to which he belonged. Upon his coffin was this inscription:—

GEORGE REINHARD.
Died April 25, 1854.
Aged 19 years, 3 months and 13 days.

The deceased lost his life by the falling of the second wall, while attempting to rescue those who had been buried under the ruins of the first. He entered the building with Michael Flynn, whose body was found lying beside him. All who knew him bear testimony to his frank and generous nature, while the manner of his death is the strongest evidence that can be given of his intrepidity and self devotion. His family have lost in him an affectionate brother and a devoted son, and his acquaintances will long remember him as a generous and warm-hearted friend.

PROGRAMME OF THE FUNERAL PROCESSION.

The following arrangements have been adopted, and are to be observed on Sunday, 30th inst., the occasion of the funeral solemnities of the members of the department whose lives were sacrificed on Tuesday evening, at the fire in Broadway:—

The line will form in Broadway at 11 o'clock A. M., the right on Fourteenth street, and will move six abreast, in reversed order, down Broadway, through the Park to the City Hall, where the bodies will be received; thence to Chatham street, up Chatham street and the Bowery to Astor place, through Astor place to Broadway, down Broadway to the South ferry, where the line will halt and open on each side of the street to enable the procession to countermarch.

The Chief Engineer will act as Grand Marshal, and the Assistant Engineers as his aids.

The order will be as follows:—

First—Mayors and Common Council, Heads of Departments, firemen of other cities.

Second—Judiciary, Mayor, Common Council and Heads of Departments of this city.

Third—Association of Exempt Firemen.

Fourth—Ex Chiefs and Assistant Engineers.

Fifth—Officers and Trustees of the Fire Department Fund.

Sixth—Fire Department, commencing with Engine Company No. 1, Hose Company No. 1, Hook and Ladder Company No. 1, and Hydrant Company No. 1, and in regular order throughout the line.

Seventh—Fire Department banner, in charge of Hose Company No. 49.

Eighth—Hearses containing the bodies of deceased, each surrounded by the companies to which they belonged, followed by relatives and friends.

The members of the department will appear in citizens' dress, without banners or music, wearing the usual badge designating the company to which they belong, officers of each company carrying speaking trumpets shrouded in crape. No boys will be permitted to appear in the line.

The bell ringers are directed to toll the bells while the funeral is moving.

Edward H. Senker, Esq., will superintend the funeral.

ALFRED CARSON, Grand Marshal.

On the fifth page may be found the proceedings of the meetings of the different fire companies, held to express their sympathy with the relatives and friends of the deceased, and to make arrangements for taking part in the funeral ceremonies.

CARDS.

NEW YORK, April 28, 1854.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, ESQ.:—

DEAR SIR—The late serious fire in Broadway, where so many brave and noble men met with their death, is a matter that should be remembered feelingly by every citizen, and not be allowed to pass away as a nine days' wonder. It should particularly interest every merchant and business man, as the brave firemen, without expectation of reward, willingly risks his life in the saving of property. We therefore suggest that the New York merchants (who are ever willing to pay tribute to any distinguished foreigner,) now show their liberality in a laudable way, and raise a splendid monument to the memory of the unfortunate men who lost their lives at that fire. We cheerfully place one hundred dollars towards a fund to be raised for this purpose by the merchants of New York. Respectfully yours,

DRUMGOLD & PROCH, 120 Fulton street.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

The undersigned are desirous of correcting the erroneous statements that have appeared in the newspapers, that the falling of the rear walls of their store, at the time of the fire on Tuesday night last, was caused by the immense weight of a large iron safe that was in the fourth story of the rear building of their store. There were but two iron safes in their store at the time of the fire, one of which, weighing about nine hundred pounds, was in the first story of said rear building; the other, weighing upwards of twenty-five hundred pounds, was in the basement. The building was not constructed by us, and we were merely occupants of the same.

We return our thanks to the firemen for their untiring perseverance and daring intrepidity in attempting to save our property (with others) from the devouring element; and at the same time we sincerely condole with the relatives and friends of those who by this melancholy occurrence have lost their lives.

W. T. JENNINGS & CO.

EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY.

NEWARK.

At a meeting of the Fire Department of Newark, N. J., held at the engine house of No. 5 on the 27th inst., David J. Campfield in the chair, and Theodore K. Crockett Secretary, the following preamble and resolutions, offered by W. B. Wilson, were unanimously adopted:—

Whereas, a most disastrous calamity has befallen the New York Fire Department, causing the death of many of its members, we as volunteer firemen feel it a duty incumbent upon us to sympathize with our brethren of New York in their bereavement—therefore, be it

Resolved, That the firemen of the city of Newark take this opportunity of expressing to the Fire Department of New York, and the friends and relatives of the deceased, their heartfelt sympathy in their affliction, and mourn with that department the loss of so many of its bright and promising members, who in the midst of their usefulness have been suddenly called from life to sleep, to wake no more until the last general alarm is sounded.

Resolved, That we cannot but admire the dauntless courage which the firemen of New York displayed in rescuing those buried beneath the ruins. No one who beheld the privations and hardships which they endured, and the unremitting zeal with which they laboured, could refrain from expressing their approbation of those who were impelled alone by the noble principles of humanity.

Resolved, That the firemen of Newark, in a body, attend the funeral of their deceased brethren in New York.

Resolved, That a copy of the above preamble and resolutions, signed by the officers of the meeting, be forwarded to the Chief Engineer of the New York Fire Department, published in the *Mercury*, *Advertiser* and *Eagle* of this city, and the HERALD, *Sunday Mercury* and *Fireman's Journal* of New York.

JERSEY CITY.

A meeting of the officers of the companies composing the Fire Department of Jersey City was held last evening, with reference to the late mournful calamity in Broadway. S. A. French, Chief Engineer, presided, and A. W. Van Winkle, foreman of Engine Company No. 3, was chosen Secretary.

Messrs. A. W. Van Winkle, James Gopsill and Charles Holmes were appointed a committee on resolutions, who reported the following, which were adopted:—

Whereas, by the late disaster on the 25th inst., in Broadway, in the city of New York, an unprecedented loss of life occurred from among the Fire Department of our sister city, and deeming an expression of our feelings incumbent upon us, the firemen of Jersey City, be it

Resolved, That to the afflicted relatives and friends of the deceased firemen, under their sad bereavement, we tender our warmest sympathies and condolence, and trust that "He that tempers the winds to the shorn lamb" will not fail to impart to them resignation to His will, as made manifest in this dispensation.

Resolved, That out of respect to the deceased, the officers of each fire company in Jersey City will attend their funeral obsequies on Sunday, the 30th inst., at 1 o'clock P. M., wearing the usual badge of mourning on the left arm.

Resolved, That it is hereby recommended to the Fire Department of Jersey City to attend the funeral of their brother firemen in New York, on Sunday, the 30th inst., and thus, by an act of respect, to testify their sympathies with the relatives and their regard for their surviving friends.

Messrs. S. A. French, James Gopsill and Chas. Holmes were designated the committee to make arrangements; and the firemen of Jersey City will meet at their respective engine houses on Sunday, at 12 M., and proceed from thence as directed by this Committee of Arrangements.

DANGEROUS BUILDINGS.

We have received the following letter from the foreman of Engine Co. No. 38:—

NEW YORK, April 28, 1854.

MR. JULIAN BOTTS:—Dear Sir—Allow me to call your attention to the store corner of Maiden lane and Nassau street, on the northeast corner, which has, at the present time, forty large iron safes, suitable for jewellers, in the different lofts of said buildings; also the stores Nos. 61 Nassau street and 167 Broadway, which, in case of fire, would be found regular man-traps. Yours, truly,

A FIREMAN.

Interesting about the Wards in Kentucky.

[Correspondence of the Louisville Courier.]

ELIZABETHTOWN, April 24, 1854.

Col. Caldwell, one of the counsel for the defence, left for home yesterday. He was the first attorney employed; his reputation as an able lawyer is very wide-spread throughout the interior of the State, and his somewhat brilliant career as a member of Congress and an officer in Mexico renders him a man of note.

It is very reasonable, then, that the popular mind should be more anxious to hear a gentleman whose family is to some extent national, in preference to one who has heretofore had no opportunity of distinguishing himself outside of a local sphere.

Capt. Tom Marshall also took his departure yesterday. The appearance of Matt. Ward during the speeches on Saturday was that of an intensely excited listener. He would frequently rise from his seat, and, with an eager look, gaze upon the speaker, often moving his lips and twitching his features from great and overpowering nervousness.

His accommodations in jail are said to be very comfortable and plain, with a studious avoidance of everything elegant or luxurious. The county prison contains but one room, and that, previous to the reception of the Wards, was divided into two by a wooden partition.

In one of these Robert J. Ward, Jr., is confined, and the other is allotted to Matt. Ward and his wife. A rag carpet covers the floor, while the furniture consists of a bed in each, with several split-bottom chairs, and a few shelves for books and medicines.

Matt. Ward's chief employment in confinement (said to be by those who have visited him) is that of whittling. Before leaving Louisville he had a large cedar post split up and tied into bundles, bringing them along with him. Since his arrival here he has whittled up at least a cart-load of wood.

The jury is closely confined at night and during the recess of court, under the watch of one of the sheriffs.

It is a matter of common talk here that the neighbors of one of the jurors say that he had frequently expressed an opinion that if the jury hangs he shall be drummed out of the county.

Mr. Harris is speaking for the prosecution this morning. He will be followed by Gov. Helm for the defence.

TELEGRAPIC.

MATTHEW F. WARD ACQUITTED.

LOUISVILLE, April 27, 1854.

Matthew F. Ward, on trial for the murder of Professor Butler, has to-day been acquitted.

Coroners' Inquests.

SUICIDE OF A GERMAN MERCHANT BY SHOOTING HIMSELF WITH A PISTOL.

On Wednesday last Coroner Gamble was called to hold an inquest at No. 52 Bond street, on the body of Edward Christ, of the firm of Spies, Christ & Co., importers, No. 68 Broad street, who committed suicide the afternoon previous, by shooting himself through the head with a pistol. The deceased had recently returned from Europe, and was a passenger on board the steamship Humboldt at the time she was wrecked; and on his arrival in this city his friends discovered symptoms of insanity, and preparations were made by them to send him to the Lunatic Asylum. This fact coming to the knowledge of the deceased, is supposed to have been the immediate cause of his self destruction. The evidence taken before the Coroner was in substance as follows:—

Elizabeth Gardner sworn, said—I reside at No. 52 Bond street; the deceased occupied a room in our house for about four months past; he frequently complained of ill health and was at times flighty in his manner, and said that "he would be better out of the world than in;" physicians attended him yesterday, and said they had made up their minds the deceased was insane; I heard the report of a pistol, and soon after I went up stairs to the room of deceased, and there found him lying on the floor with a pistol lying partially under him; I gave an alarm, and other persons came, but he was then dead.

Dr. Uhl, sworn, said—I made an external examination of the body of deceased, and found a wound in the forehead directly over the nose, causing a fracture of the skull, making a ragged wound; the injury had evidently been done by a pistol shot; this wound was the cause of death. The jury, under the circumstances of the case and the evidence adduced, rendered the following

VERDICT.

That deceased, Edward Christ, came to his death by suicide, by shooting himself with a pistol, while laboring under temporary aberration of mind.

Deceased was a native of Germany, 33 years of age, and possessed considerable wealth.

Affairs in Washington.

[Correspondence of the Baltimore Sun.]

WASHINGTON, April 27, 1854.

Negotiations with Great Britain—Belligerent Property Protected by Neutral Flags.

There is no doubt of the fact that negotiations are now on foot, with every reasonable prospect of success, for the formal recognition by Great Britain of the principle that belligerent property shall be protected by a neutral flag, and that neutral property shall be safe, even under the enemy's flag. The Queen's proclamation does not admit the general principle; it merely declares that she will act upon it for the present.

Now is the proper time to obtain the general recognition of the principle, not by a treaty, as Portugal purchased it once by most important commercial concessions, but by a perfect understanding with all other maritime powers. The United States have taken the lead in regard to it, and now is the time for France, Sweden, Denmark, Prussia, Holland, Sardinia, Belgium and Naples, to come in, and change that which England concedes "for the present" into a permanent, fixed law, for the guidance of all civilized nations. In doing this, the United States will do in regard to England what Cromwell once did in regard to Holland.

The naval power of the Dutch was then preponderating in Europe, and for this reason the Protector constituted himself the champion of the rights of neutrals; but when England herself became mistress of the sea, she became as aggressive as the Dutch had been before her, and commenced plundering ships on the high seas. The championship of the rights of neutrals now devolves upon the United States; but it is not to be secured by treaty with England, but by a perfect understanding with all other maritime powers, which shall force England to recognise the principle in its fullest latitude, now and forever.

Personal Intelligence.

Among the passengers by the Arctic to sail to-day for Liverpool, we notice the names of Prof. Bedford, of the New York University; Rev. Dr. Stearns and lady, of Newark; Commodore Coe and family, (formerly of Newark,) late commander of the fleet blockading Buenos Ayres. The A. will have about two hundred passengers.

Archbishop John Hughes arrived at his residence in this city on Tuesday evening last perfectly restored to health, and in good spirits.

Hon. George Bliss has left Washington temporarily, by the advice of his physician, for the recovery of his health. He has paired off on the Nebraska and Kansas bill with Hon. Presley Ewing.

G. Peck, Wisconsin; Joe Steele, Washington; J. P. March, Boston; S. D. Curtis, N. Y.; W. Pendleton, Pa.; J. E. Andrews, N. Y., arrived yesterday at the Prescott House.

Col. F. M. Wynkoop, United States Marshal, Philadelphia; Wm. Murray, London; W. Bailey, Philadelphia; E. Hildreth, Royal Navy; Moses Wolff, St. Thomas; James Anderson, Louisville; J. W. Brown, Philadelphia; E. D. Kennedy, California, were among the arrivals yesterday at the Metropliton Hotel.

C. M. Jerkins, Albany; H. R. Sherman, Poughkeepsie; S. L. Crocker, Washington; A. Ward, Arkansas; D. Walker, Toledo; Hon. O. B. Matteson, Utica; A. Wright, Providence; A. A. Kennard, Baltimore; S. S. Bryant, Pittsburg; E. S. Gorden, Jackson, Miss.; W. T. Granvill, Providence, arrived yesterday at the Astor House.

L. Potter, Troy; W. Muir, Petersburg; R. Hill, Maryland; J. Pendier, Philadelphia; L. W. Breadon, Miss.; C. H. Tegner, do.; A. Dana, Boston; E. B. Hill, Va.; N. K. Benton, Corn.; T. Blackston, Vermont; J. C. Wright, Philadelphia; W. Temple, Albany; Geo. Thompson, Boston; J. H. Peabody, do.; O. Potts, Mexico, arrived yesterday at the St. Nicholas.

ARRIVALS.

From Havre, in steamship Nashville—W Corbyn, of Niblo's Garden; M Antoine Ravel, do; M Leopold Thilman, Artiste De L'Opera Paris; Mlle N Thilman, do do; Mlle V Franck, danseuse, do; M A Chiarini, artiste, Vienna; Mlle V Chiarini, do do; Madame Franck, do, Paris; Capt E H Davis, J Commelin, H P Wiborg and lady, S P Winter, A F Jacob, Eugene Lentz, J Freck, E Saintain, L Landrum, G Meyer, L Willier and lady, E Schmidt, Mrs Glore, P Bartview, J Turner and lady, C Hanson & lady, G Robinson, L Toupin, A Lemig, G Mahler, Miss Nagel, J De Grave and lady, F De Grave, J Bieler.

From St Thomas and Bermuda, in steamship Curlew—S M Travis, lady and child, Miss E Harland, T W Goldie, lady and daughter, Miss A Dunn, Mrs L Oterbridge, six children and two servants, J F Fuller, N Nolet, E Eldridge and lady, A S Dulgelle, C J Rolfold, P L May, M Berresleitia, H Cartwright, F L Mayrs, Miss B Fox, Miss E Lighbourn, Miss Parrot, J Parrot, J Eve, J Yates, Miss Dill, R S Wood, C Dickmore, T Williams, A Backer, H Hammond, S B Smith, Mrs S Jarvis, four daughters and two servants, J W Beatty, L M Wolf, two children and servant, Mrs E Gellew, daughter and servant, Miss F Hawle, two children and servant, Mrs A Mills and four children, C Rising, E H Dagget.

From Vera Cruz, in brig Nonnuphar—Mr A Compos, lady and family, A S Suworley, Miss Mary Order, Mr Konts.

DEPARTURES.

For Melbourne, Australia, in the ship Prince de Joinville—Thos Sanders, John Quinn, John Clark, John Aaron, John Atkinson, A Kelly, N York; Mrs Mumford and daughter, Kingston, Ja; Thos Hamilton, Philadelphia; Charles Bailey; Chas Parker, Conn; Michael Horan, Miss Ann Horan, James Garrett, Arthur Garrett, David McKinzie, St Louis; Mrs Dickson, Lowell; Mrs Busby, Albany; John A. Vance, Kentucky; Mr Dreebock, lady and son, Philadelphia; Mr Trett, 6 Flowers, Mr Lowelly, Mr Nothebeke, Miss Mary Parker.

Arrival of the Steamship Nashville.

The United States mail steamship Nashville, Captain Berry, arrived at this port at three o'clock yesterday afternoon.

The Nashville left Havre on the 12th instant, and embarked the English mails at Southampton in the afternoon of the same day. She brings a full and valuable cargo and a fair number of passengers.

The N. had a terrible passage encountering a gale that lasted four days and nights. She carried away wheelhouses and did considerable damage to all the upperworks of the ship. She experienced twelve days stormy weather out of fifteen.

Among the passengers by the Nashville, we find the name of Mr. Niblo's well known agent, Mr. Corbyn, who returns from a long tour through all the gay capitals of Europe, where he has been in search of *artistes* for the great establishment to which he is attached. With him comes also, the celebrated Antoine Ravel, who leaves his beautiful villa, near Toulouse, to join once more his talented brothers here in America, and thus complete the re-organization of the wondrous "Ravel Family," who, for twenty-four years past, have maintained their popularity with the American public. We are not yet aware what attractions will be added to those we are accustomed to find at Niblo's Garden; but knowing as we do the enterprise and liberality of Mr. Niblo, and the capability and judgment of Mr. Corbyn, we may safely anticipate a more than ordinary combination of novelty and talent at that popular establishment.

In company with M. Antoine Ravel we find the following *artistes*, viz.:—Monsieur Leopold and Mlle. Natalie Thilman, from the Grand Opera of Paris; Monsieur Angiolo Chiarini and his sister, Mlle. Virginie, *artistes* from Vienna; with Mlle. Victorine Franck, the young *danseuse*. This, we suppose, is only the first detachment of the grand army destined to carry on the coming campaign at Niblo's.

News from Cuba.

[From the Charleston Courier, April 26.]

The U. S. mail steamship Isabel, Capt. Wm. Rollins, arrived at her wharf at this port early yesterday morning, from Havana and Key West, having left the former port on the morning and the latter on the evening of the 22d inst.

We subjoin the favors of our attentive correspondents:—

HAVANA, April 21, 1854.

The Spaniards do not now speak out so boldly about eating up the invaders, or of shooting all the Cubans; still, at times, they speak of their army of 30,000 men, and of raising 80,000 Spaniards in Cuba. Poor men, it is all bosh; for 35,000 Spaniards and Canary Islanders are all that exist in Cuba, whilst the grand army does not count more than 12,000 to 15,000 men; the former number I consider the true amount. I am certain it does not exceed the latter. Very few of the Canary Islanders would fight willingly, and I may say the same of the Spaniards. Of these facts the better informed Spaniards are aware, and know that their government holds the island by a very insecure tenure. I believe that even many Spaniards would like the change, and numbers would like to see it brought about by a blow, so as to have security afterwards. The Canary Islanders side in general with the Cubans.

The Captain General is reported to be a literary character. He is the censor of books himself, an employment one would suppose that would occupy too much of the time of a Governor of Cuba; however, he finds time also to go to bull fights, and takes his pretty wife and family with him, to enjoy the sight of gored horses, with their bowels trailing out, and of the butchery of bulls.

Now, Mrs. Pezuela—I mean the Marchioness—is too young and pretty for such scenes, and looks, with her sweet mild countenance, like one that a romantic youth would like to walk in the woods with, gathering flowers and presenting them to his fair companion with sighs. By what I have said, you will suppose that the lady is more liked than the gentleman in question, and as I dislike to leave room for doubt or mystery, I confess that such is the case.

On the last arrival of the Black Warrior the Consul went on board for his papers—the Government officer on board wished to take them from him, but he held on, and was accompanied to his office by two other officers. On seeing the arms of the United States, they made their bows and went off.

The weather is cool and pleasant, but money is scarce and business very dull. The Spaniards are sending money away to Spain, and the sale of sugar is dull, which accounts for the scarcity.