NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR.

OFFICE N. W. CORNER OF NASSAU AND FULTON STS.

Volume XIX............................No. 138

New York, Saturday, May 20, 1854.

Mails for the Pacific.

THE NEW YORK HERALD—CALIFORNIA EDITION.

The United States mail steamship George Law, Captain Fox, will leave this port this afternoon, at two o'clock, for Aspinwall.

The mails for California and other parts of the Pacific will close at one o'clock.

The NEW YORK WEEKLY HERALD, California edition, containing the latest intelligence from all parts of the world, will be published at ten o'clock in the morning.

Single copies sixpence. Agents will please send in their orders as early as possible.

The News.

The advices brought by the Europa give quite another aspect to the late naval operations against Odessa.—the effect produced on the fortifications and other defences of the place by the bombardment being much more complete than was at first stated. In the course of a few hours the forts, batteries and military stores, were totally destroyed, and twelve ships of war sunk by the fire of the combined squadron. Two powder magazines belonging to the Russians blew up during the action, and it is said that a number of workmen who were in them at the time were killed by the explosion. The loss of life on the Russian side is not stated, but on that of the allies there were only eight men killed and eighteen wounded. With that consideration for commercial and neutral interests which was to be expected from the previous declarations of their respective governments, it is stated that the commanders of the combined squadron took care that no injury should be inflicted on the city or on foreign ships. No mention is made of any attempt to land troops, so that it will be seen that in this, as well as in several other important particulars, the previous accounts, derived through Russian sources, were not only guilty of sins of omission but commission, the *suggestio falsi* as well as the *suppressio veri* having been liberally employed by the telegraph agents. The combined squadron sailed immediately after the reduction of the place for Sebastopol, taking with them as prizes thirteen Russian ships laden with munitions of war.

The report that Omer Pacha had advanced, at the head of 70,000 men, towards the Dobrudscha, and given battle to and defeated General Luders, between Silistria and Rassova, compelling him to retreat towards Czernavoda, with the loss of a great number of guns and a large amount of military stores, was generally discredited in Paris, and its non-appearance in the columns of the *Moniteur* may be looked upon as a proof that the French government do not attach any faith to it. On the 20th of April a Turkish flying corps crossed the Danube below Silistria, in order to destroy the Russian strand batteries; but being overmatched at a place called Khaleresh, they were, after several hours hard fighting, compelled to retreat. It is stated in one of the Paris papers that the Russian army in the Dobrudscha had suspended its march in obedience to the orders of Prince Paskiewitch; but, considering the positive orders previously given by the Emperor, this rumor may have as little foundation as the thousand other reports that are circulated by interested emissaries on both sides.

Sir Charles Napier is keeping strict watch and ward on all the ports in the Baltic, and it is said that nothing in the shape of a Russian ship or cockleshell can escape him. The Russians, aware of the advantages to be derived from the employment of gunboats in shallow waters, have armed upwards of eight hundred for this service. The British admiral has applied to his government for a fleet of small steamers to operate against this flotilla.

An incident of the war, having apparent connection with this country, had created a prodigious sensation amongst certain English *quid nuncs*, who are perpetually on the watch to discover some faithless and treacherous tendency on the part of Brother Jonathan. It appears that on the 1st a sailor, named Gaston Fouque, who represented himself as second mate of French brig Ville de Marseilles, called upon Lloyd's agent at St. Ives, Cornwall, and stated that he had swam on shore from a Russian frigate which had captured his vessel. The capture, according to his account, took place at about twenty leagues from Cardiff, on the Welsh coast. The frigate first hoisted English and then French colors, and on their captain and crew of the brig trying to escape in a boat they were fired upon, and the captain and three men were killed. The frigate he reported had gone up the Channel. In the newspapers which published this account it was further stated that the Admiralty had sent two steamers in search of the interloper.

A London journal, which has already distinguished itself on two or three occasions by the publication of startling intelligence, derived, in all probability, from "the spiritual telegraph," immediately came out with a statement connecting this occurrence with the rumors respecting the destination of the Grapeshot, which appeared a few weeks since in the New York papers, and affirming that the Russian frigate in question was no other than the latter vessel. It further stated that the Admiralty had received positive intelligence that such was the fact. Thereupon comes out another London paper, the *Shipping Gazette*, with a short paragraph, announcing that it had caused inquiries to be made that morning at the Admiralty, and that there was not one word of truth in the statement from beginning to end.

Amidst such a variety of conflicting assertions we cannot, of course, take upon ourselves to decide what foundation there is for the first part of the story. We can only place before our readers such evidence as happens to fall within the sphere of our own knowledge.

In the first place, supposing the statement of the sailor to be true as to his ship having been captured by a Russian frigate, may it not be connected with the fact, announced a short time since by one of our correspondents at Rio Janeiro, of a Russian frigate having sailed from that port on her return to Europe? The description given by the Frenchman of the vessel by which the Ville de Marseilles was attacked, is more reconcileable with the supposition that she was the frigate in question than the Grapeshot, which is only a small vessel of about 250 tons burden.

This hypothesis is strengthened by the following communication, which we received yesterday, immediately after the publication of the Europa's news:—

FRIDAY, May 19—1½ P. M.

Captain James Wheeler, arrived from New Orleans this morning per Crescent City, reports having seen the bark Grapeshot riding at anchor off the Belize on this day week. Also reports having seen Captain Baxter in the city previous to the sailing of the steamer. No doubt the officers of the Crescent City will confirm the report.

R. W. CAMERON.

In addition to the above, we have since received a statement from another correspondent, who, we have reason to believe, possesses authentic information on the subject, in which he affirms that the Grapeshot still remains at anchor at Belize, near New Orleans, and gives as the motive of her long delay at the latter place the following explanation. He states that the stock of muskets which were shipped on board this vessel, were purchased of George Law by an agent of Santa Anna, on the express condition that the purchase money should be paid to the captain at New Orleans, previous to their delivery at Vera Cruz. As the stipulated sum is to be paid out of the money to be received by Santa Anna on the ratification of the Gadsden treaty the Grapeshot has been detained at Belize until the fulfilment of the contract. He adds that all who know Captain Baxter, who is in charge of the vessel, will be willing to bear testimony to his honorable and upright character, and to the little likelihood of his engaging in any enterprise of the unlawful and discreditable character described above. We have now placed before our readers the different versions of this curious story, and leave them to draw their own conclusions from them.

It appears that the new financial operation of Mr. Gladstone does not find much favor in England, there being a considerable deficiency in the amount subscribed for the first series of exchequer bonds, which are redeemable in 1858. Scarcely any tenders had been received for the two succeeding series. Under those circumstances, the Chancellor of the Exchequer was compelled to extend the time for receiving tenders to the afternoon of Monday, the 8th inst. The drain of bullion from the coffers of the Bank still continues, the decrease for the week from which the last return was made up amounting to £398,067.

The Europa's news had no effect upon breadstuffs; common brands of State flour closed at $8 a $8 25, chiefly at the former figure. Indian corn inclined to droop, with free sales, which ranged from 60c. a 70c. for all kinds except Southern yellow, which was scarce and irregular at 73c. a 75c.

Our correspondence from Vera Cruz presents a deplorable picture of the state of commercial affairs in Mexico. Everything seems to be at sixes and sevens in that unfortunate country, and the general confusion is made worse by Santa Anna's absence in the South, the public business being at a complete standstill, and brigandage on the principal routes, which had been for a time suppressed, again rapidly on the increase. It is said that Santa Anna is about to return to the capital.

Our letters from Havana describe the effect produced by the publication of the amnesty and colonization decrees, and contain some interesting speculations as to the probable effects of the latter of those ordinances. Don Ramos Marin has, it appears, been recalled to Spain for the part which he took in the Black Warrior affair; but the Captain General, elated by the expressions of Royal approval which are said to have been conveyed to him, begins to talk big with regard to the contingency of an invasion.

The bark Virginia arrived last night, bringing advices from Buenos Ayres to the 3d of April. Everything was quiet and peaceable at that place.

Some time since a bill was introduced in the Senate to suspend the collection of duties on railroad iron. It was favorably received, but laid aside in order to give the Senators from Pennsylvania, both of whom were then absent, an opportunity to express their views upon the subject, which is one of great importance to the iron interest of that State. Yesterday Mr. Cooper presented a substitute for the bill, and a synopsis of its provisions may be found under the Congressional head. It proposes simply that when the price of iron at the place of manufacture is forty dollars per ton and from that to fifty-two dollars, the duties shall be so arranged as to make the invoice cost and duties amount to the latter sum. When the manufacturer's price falls below forty dollars per ton, the duty increases dollar for dollar. The quotations for railroad iron in the London market, by last advices, are placed at £7 10s. to £7 15s. A resolution directing inquiry as to the propriety of making permanent provision for rewarding those who may rescue life and property on board American ships, and particularly the captain and crew of the Washington, who recently brought to this port the passengers of the wrecked ship Winchester, was adopted. The Senate took up the private calendar, and shortly after adjourned till Monday.

In the House, yesterday, the debate on the Nebraska bill was continued. As the time for closing the discussion draws near, the excitement on this subject increases, and there was every prospect of the session continuing throughout last night. Messrs. Walsh and Wheeler, of this city, and Col. Benton, delivered characteristic speeches on the question yesterday, which slightly aroused members from the apathy into which they had fallen; but after those gentlemen had concluded, the hall became almost deserted, and our reporters very prudently left them alone in their glory.

The investigation of the "Know-Nothing case" was concluded yesterday, and resulted in the discharge of the persons under arrest. It appears to have been a very silly affair throughout. A report of the closing proceedings is crowded out.

Full accounts of the shipwrecks on the coast near this port, and at other points, are given in another column.

The election for United States Senators in the Legislature of Connecticut resulted yesterday in the choice of Francis Gillette, abolition whig, for the short term, and Lafayette Foster, whig with decided abolition tendencies, for the long term. Gillette received but one majority in the Senate, and was elected in the House only by throwing out three blank votes that had been cast. The most unblushing corruption is charged upon his supporters.

Andrew Williams was convicted yesterday of the murder of his wife, by administering to her poison. The jury recommended him to mercy.

Abraham Barker, keeper of the Atlantic Hotel, Hoboken, was tried yesterday in the Court of Sessions of Hudson county, New Jersey, upon an indictment for selling liquor on Sunday. Mr. Barker was indicted along with eight others of the most respectable hotel keepers in the place. The affair has created the greatest excitement in Hoboken and the neighborhood. The remaining eight trials will probably occupy a week or more, but the evidence will no doubt be of the same nature in each case.

The persons recently on trial charged with committing frauds at the late election in the Twentieth ward were yesterday acquitted by the jury.

The proceedings in the Board of Aldermen last evening are of interest. The dispute between the Board and the Commissioner of Streets, relative to the appointment of market and other clerks, has been brought to a sharp turn by the Corporation Attorney, who decides that the Aldermen can do nothing but confirm or reject the nominations of the department. A report was adopted directing the lessee of the new ferry to Williamsburg to put the same in operation as soon as practicable. After the transaction of other routine business the Board adjourned till the first Monday in June.

The Bombardment of Odessa.

The arrival of the Europa brings additional details regarding the bombardment of Odessa, which, as was to be expected from the fact of our former intelligence being received through an exclusively Russian channel, was more complete and effective than the government agents in charge of the Odessa telegraph were disposed to admit. Their statements were, in fact, so confused and contradictory, and so much opposed to the probabilities of the case, that it was evident upon the face of them that there had been a partial suppression of the truth. Taking into account the weakness of the defences of this seaport, and the importance to the allies of opening the campaign with some decisive operation which would relieve them from the imputations so freely thrown out against them, both in Constantinople and in England, of purposely postponing the commencement of hostilities for ulterior objects inconsistent with the interests of Turkey, it was not at all likely that they would have contented themselves with a partial demonstration of the kind represented, and which in its imperfect results was tantamount to a failure. The information, therefore, that has just reached us of the complete reduction of the place, and of the destruction of all its military and naval defences, will come upon no one by surprise. It was the first step in the natural order of events by which the allies were expected to vindicate their unquestionable superiority at sea; and if they had retired from before this, the most defenceless of the Russian ports on the southern coast, after only partially attaining their objects, the effect upon public opinion, not only in Turkey, but in Europe generally, would have been discouraging in the extreme. Its probable influence may be judged of by the exultant and triumphant tone of the English journals, which attach a degree of importance to the success of this operation which it cannot with justice be said to deserve. Every one was prepared for the immediate reduction of the place, and we ourselves, long before the event took place, pointed to this event as likely to inaugurate the commencement of serious hostilities on the part of the allies. The Russian Emperor had, in fact, so little expectation that Odessa would be able to hold out, that he took care to effect the removal of the greater portion of the immense stock of grain of which it formed the depot, and to leave only a small and unimportant portion of his fleet to aid in its defence.

That the reduction of Odessa is advantageous to the coalition, in so far as it operates as a stimulus to popular enthusiasm in England, which already begins to shew signs of waning, cannot be denied; but that it will produce any contrary tendency in the minds of the Czar and of his people, as some journals are disposed to think, is not for a moment reconcilable with the publicly declared anticipations of the former, or with the fortitude and courage with which the latter sustained themselves under the infinitely more disastrous and trying reverses of the campaign of 1812. The possession of Moscow was deemed by all, but perhaps Napoleon himself, as the crowning event in the conquest of that vast empire; but those who indulged in this sanguine anticipation soon found that they possessed but an imperfect knowledge of the character of the people and of the nature of the country against which the hitherto invincible armies of France had to contend. They forgot that a semi-barbarous people like the Russians, are not swayed by the same opinions and influences that govern the masses in countries in which the representative form of government prevails. In despotic systems, where all the machinery of government is centred in the person of one man, and where the advocacy of sectional and party interests is not allowed to interrupt and impede its operations, a degree of unity and force is imparted to it, which, in emergencies such as that in which Alexander found himself, renders it capable of greater efforts and sacrifices than a people accustomed to representative institutions, and having no strong dynastic attachments, would choose to make. There can be no more striking illustration of this view than the contrast between the devotedness displayed by the Russians towards Alexander throughout the whole of that trying campaign, and the manner in which the French abandoned Napoleon on the entrance of the allies into France. Had the positions of the two nations been reversed, the Russians would have died to a man before they yielded up their monarch to the vengeance of his enemies.

When, therefore, in presence of these facts, we find the organs of the coalition exulting over this their first success, and indulging in sanguine anticipations as to the future, we cannot help calling to mind that the same proud and confident hopes heralded the greatest military disaster of modern times, and finally led to the overthrow of the most powerful throne in Europe. Whilst the lesson inculcated by those calamitous events seems to have been entirely overlooked in the excitement of a temporary triumph, it is but right that we, who are far removed from their influence, should give it its proper weight in the consideration of the events that are now occupying the attention of the world. We say again, as we have frequently said before, that it is not the reduction of Odessa, Sebastopol, Cronstadt, or even of St. Petersburg itself, nor the annihilation of the whole Russian fleet, that will advance by a day the solution of the question that has led to these unhappy complications. It is on land that the colossal power and strength of Russia must be combatted and checked; but up to the present time we see no prospects of a combination sufficiently sincere and united in its action to hold out a prospect that any effectual restraints will be imposed upon her ambition.

The Nebraska Question—Different Modes of Settlement—Parties in Congress—Probable Results.

The debate upon the Nebraska bill is to be closed to-day, when the House, we suppose, will proceed, or attempt to proceed, to a vote upon the main question, or upon such amendments as may not be overruled by the previous question. There is some apprehension that the struggle of mere physical endurance will again be renewed, and that it may possibly be persevered in by the minority, so as to throw over the final issue upon the bill at least till Monday morning. But there is scarcely a doubt of the passage of the bill.

It seems to be generally understood that the direct repeal of the Missouri compromise is to be pushed through; but it is not at all unlikely that this issue may be materially modified before the final vote upon the measure. The history of the slavery discussions and adjustments in Congress, concerning the Territories of the United States, affords no settled policy of action upon the subject. It rather furnishes us with a succession of temporary expedients, comprehending no broad and general fundamental principle sufficient to cover the whole ground. Thus, by the Missouri compromise of 1820, the Territories acquired from France in the Louisiana purchase were divided between the North and South by the geographical line of 36 30. This was a sectional and not a constitutional adjustment; and was therefore of no permanent or binding effect. In the annexation of Texas, however, this Missouri line was re-affirmed, and in all the territory of Texas north of said line, slavery was prohibited. The war with Mexico followed next in order—the peace succeeded, and the new acquisitions of the treaty of Gaudalupe Hidalgo brought up the whole question of slavery and free soil, with such complexities and embarrassments as threatened the peace of the country and the violent disruption of the Union.

The Wilmot proviso, which had been applied to Oregon, in connection with the legislation upon the Missouri controversy, were the real causes of the perplexities of Congress in arriving at a satisfactory adjustment from 1848 to 1850. The Missouri compromise of 1820—re-affirmed in the annexation of Texas—were precedents in which Congress had exercised the direct power of restricting the area of slavery. The application of the Wilmot proviso to Oregon was another usurpation of this power; but the bill was signed by President Polk, including the proviso, on the ground that as the whole Territory of Oregon was above the Missouri line, the proviso excluding slavery was, in fact, but the application of the Missouri compact over a region which the South might readily consent to, as embraced in the restriction. Thus, by a democratic Southern President, the Wilmot proviso was acquiesced in concerning Oregon, because of the precedent of the Missouri compact, which prohibited slavery "forever" above the line of 36 30; while, in point of fact, the precedent was as unconstitutional as the Wilmot proviso itself.

Such was the embarrassing condition in which the question of slavery in the Territories was presented to Congress upon the acquisition of our new Territories from Mexico. Upon the basis of the Missouri line, one half of our Mexican acquisitions, including the half of California on the Pacific, would have gone to the South. According to the dogmas of the free soil party, every inch of those Territories reverted to the North, and from every square inch of them slavery should have been expressly excluded. The South were willing to continue the Missouri adjustment and to extend the line to the Pacific. They urged it—they pleaded for it; but all in vain. The free soil spirit of the North would not surrender an inch of our new acquisition to the institution of slavery.

At this crisis, in the session of 1848–9, Mr. Clayton moved, and obtained a special committee of nine, to consider the subject, and to report some plan of adjustment to the Senate. They reported a plan of organization for the new Territories, throwing over the question of slavery to the decision of the Supreme Court. After a long, violent, and learned discussion, the plan fell through, for Northern men considered the Supreme Court as calculated to be but the instrument of the South for the extension of slavery.

In the mean time two or three Mormons, engaged in digging a mill race for Captain Sutter on the Rio de los Americanos, a tributary of the Sacramento, in California, discovered the key to the permanent settlement of the slavery question in the Territories, though they little dreamed of the tremendous importance of their discovery at the time. Some shining particles of gold in the sand attracted their attention, and upon further examination that whole country was found to be full of the precious metal. It was noised abroad. Emigrants poured in by thousands; California, as by magic, became a populous State of enterprising and intelligent Anglo-Saxons. When Congress again assembled and proceeded to discuss the Territorial question of slavery, in the session of 1849–'50, they found that the people of California had cut the Gordian knot in twain, in erecting a government, and in settling the question for themselves. The discovery of those Mormons, therefore, in Capt. Sutter's mill-race, was the key to the settlement of slavery in the Territories upon the broad fundamental basis of popular sovereignty. The example of the Californians was ratified, and followed up by Congress in leaving the question of slavery in Utah and New Mexico to the people thereof, and their final judgment, when they shall ask for admission as States into the Union.

Thus it appears, that from 1820 down to 1850, the compact of the Missouri compromise was the basis of the adjustment of slavery in the Territories, when it was superseded by the fundamental doctrine of popular sovereignty, first put into successful practice, over the heads of Congress, by the people of California. It is not surprising, therefore, that the Missouri restriction should now be considered a dead letter. It was repudiated and refused by the North in 1848–'49–'50; it was superseded by Mr. Clay's schedule of compromise measures; and in itself, being unconstitutional, it was a nullity from the very beginning.

The bill, then, before the House is a justifiable measure, founded upon the very principles which were forced upon the South in the adjustment of 1850. But it may be questioned whether the House bill meets the issue in its legitimate shape or otherwise. There are three ways of setting aside the Missouri line in the Kansas-Nebraska bill:—

1. By submitting it to the judgment of the Supreme Court of the United States.

2. By a direct repeal by act of Congress.

3. By submitting the question of slavery on both sides of the line, to the final judgment of the people of Kansas and Nebraska, when they shall organize themselves into sovereign States.

The first plan was engrafted upon the first bill of this session, or reputed by Mr. Douglas; but upon a Cabinet consultation, and a few certain mysterious causes, not wholly developed as yet, it was superseded by the second. The direct repeal was passed by the Senate, and is now before the House, with the closing of the debate appointed for this very day.

Perhaps it may be too late for a modification according to the third plan, which is the plan of popular sovereignty, and which involves the true interpretation of the doctrine of Congressional non-intervention. Perhaps the motion reported as the proposition intended to be submitted to Mr. Cutting may yet be accepted by the majority, either in the House or in the Senate; for the expulsion of the Clayton amendment will make it necessary to return the bill to the Senate after it shall have passed the House. At all events, the plain submission of the whole question to the people of Kansas and Nebraska, strikes us as the simplest and most consistent shape in which to pass the bill. In this form the agitators will not have a peg left to hang upon, while the result will be precisely equivalent to the repeal itself. If Mr. Cutting and the national democrats propose to do anything to right themselves upon the question, now is their time to strike. But there is no more time to be lost in trembling indecision and delay.

City Intelligence.

THE NEW YORK LITERARY UNION.—This society held a meeting on Thursday evening, in the rooms of the Board of Education, in Grand street, at which there were delegates from the various literary associations in the city. It was but a few months since this enterprise was commenced, and during that brief period it has been most successful in the objects for which it was organized—the union of all the societies of a literary character in New York. Some time ago an attempt was made by a few strong minded women, who claimed to represent a debating club of ladies to gain admission into it but as the members did not relish their peculiar political doctrines they concluded they were better without them. The society is now in a prosperous condition and proposes to form a grand literary union, which will embrace not only all the societies in this city, but those throughout the State in a great convention, to be held once a year at whatever time and place may hereafter be designated. At its last meeting, Douglas Leffingwell, Esq., the President, was empowered to call upon the merchants of this city, explain the objects of the organization, and solicit their aid in carrying out their objects.

A MYSTERIOUS DEATH.—Yesterday morning, at about 11 o'clock, a Mrs. Crowley, of No. 7 Manhattan place, died very suddenly. In consequence thereof, a rumor was in circulation that some foul means had been resorted to. Coroner Hilton was called to hold an inquest, and to investigate the circumstances, and to-day the case will be examined.

Jersey City News.

BRITISH SALUTE.—When Lord Elgin and suite landed yesterday from the Europa, upon her arrival at the Cunard dock, a salute of twenty-one guns was fired in his honor, and the flag was hoisted upon the Custom House building.

The great case of French vs. Bankhead, involving the title of the United States to the lands at Old Point Comfort, Va., has been decided in favor of the United States, affirming the judgment of Judge Clopton, and thus quieting, forever, the title of the government, and putting an end to the numerous suits with which it has been harassed.

Movements of Ex-President Fillmore—Visit to the Public Institutions.

Mr. Fillmore yesterday visited the public institutions, in company with the Committee of the Board of Councilmen and several other gentlemen. According to appointment they left St. Nicholas Hotel about half-past eight, in carriages, and drove up to the Free Academy, where they were received by Professor Webster, President of that institution. Here they remained but a few minutes, and then proceeded to the Demilt Dispensary, which was erected over a year ago from the munificent bequest of the late Mr. Demilt. They next visited the House of Refuge, and as they arrived at a favorable hour they had an excellent opportunity of observing the management of this institution. When they entered the spacious yard or play-ground, they saw a number of boys amusing themselves—some playing ball, and all earnestly engaged in pursuit the of pleasure. The appearance of their visiters suspended their play for the time being, and they all returned to their various departments, no doubt astonished at the cause of this interruption of their amusement. Mr. Fillmore was conducted through the various workshops in the boys' and girls' departments. The admirable order and cleanliness observable among the children, received, as they justly deserved, the commendations of all the visiters. In one room we saw nearly one hundred boys at work in the manufacture of shoes, the oldest of whom was not more than twelve years of age. One class was employed in sewing the uppers, while another was occupied in beating out the soles, each having a different part of the work to perform. By this division of labor a much larger stock is turned out than could possibly be made by the old routine. Cane bottomed chairs are made in another part of the building, and there is also a tailors' shop, where a large number of boys are employed. A considerable portion of the inmates are sent to Long Island, at stated times, where they are set to work on a farm belonging to the institution.

The whole number of children received into the House of Refuge since its organization, in 1824, was 5,948; and during the past year the number was 408, which, with those remaining from the year previous, made the total population 821. On the first of January last, there were 381 in the institution, showing the number disposed of to be 440. The President is Mr. Robert Kelly, and the Superintendent Mr. John W. Ketcham.

On leaving the House of Refuge, the company proceeded to the dock near the foot of Twenty-sixth street, where they found the steamboat Norwalk, Capt. Hitchcock, waiting to convey them to the institutions on Randall's, Ward's, and Blackwell's Islands. After a brief but pleasant passage, they were landed at Randall's Island, where the first sight that greeted their eyes was a Lilliputian regiment of soldiers, bearing a banner at their head, on which was inscribed "The Randall's Island Cadets." There were about one hundred boys in this regiment, none of whom was over ten years of age. They were dressed in a uniform of gray, with blue caps, and were attended by a band composed of youths of their own age. These passed in review before the ex-President in military style, preserving an unbroken rank, and bearing in their looks no small estimation of their discipline, and the important part they were playing. When they had all passed, it came to the turn of the company to march, and they accordingly did march, but in sad disorder compared with the youthful soldiers. The first of the numerous departments which they visited was the nursery, where they found seventy-five children under the care of Mrs. Strang. They were all dressed with much neatness, and their appearance was in every respect creditable to the lady under whose charge they are placed. In fact, in every department they visited the same care in the treatment of the children was observable. While here, they saw the building which has been set apart for the idiots and lunatics, the most painful and melancholy sight which could be presented. Some of these poor creatures made the most doleful cries; some would stare at you with the most vacant gaze; while others would throw their arms around you, and look up in your face with an idiotic smile. One poor child, who appeared to be destitute of the least spark of intellect, and seemingly below the brute creation in comprehension, kept writhing and twisting about on a chair, from which she had not even the physical power to move.

We hurried away from this sad scene, anxious to forget what we had witnessed in the sight of more pleasing objects; but we shall find it hard to banish the remembrance of that idiot girl and her poor companions. It was a relief when we entered the school room, and saw our little soldier friends again, with their bright, happy faces, prepared to welcome their distinguished visiter; and such a welcome was enough to gladden the heart of any man—especially of one who had just seen what we have described. The moment Mr. Fillmore entered the schoolroom three hearty cheers greeted him, and the band chimed in, waking the echoes of Randall's Island with its music. When quiet was restored, Mr. Duke, one of the Governors of the Alms House department, introduced them in a body to Mr. Fillmore in a few brief and appropriate remarks, to which the ex-President replied as follows:—

My young friends, I take great pleasure in visiting this institution at this time, and I confess that although I supposed I knew something of the charitable institutions of my own State, I had no just conception of this. The first intimation I had of the discipline that prevailed among you, and of the manner in which you are provided for and taken care of, flashed upon my mind when I saw you approaching with your music and banners to meet me a short time ago. I was particularly struck with the order that prevailed in your ranks, and to see that you obeyed your teachers and guardians. This was gratifying to me, and it is due to you and to your instructors to say, in the course of the few years past, when I have been called upon to review troops, I have reviewed many a regiment that did not display half the military order that you did. The music seemed to know precisely its proper place, and every one in the ranks appeared to know theirs. And this is the very first duty a boy should learn, and the very last he should forget, if he expects to rise to eminence in this world. I see among you boys that may eventually fill the most important offices in this country, for they are open to all of you; and there is none so poor, and not a place so high, that each boy may not aspire to it. I sincerely hope that I may see many boys now before me filling the most important offices not only in this city, but in the country; for it would not only reflect honor upon yourselves, but upon the charities of the noble State that has made such provisions for your physical comfort and mental education. I return to your teachers, and those who have accompanied me here, my thanks for the privileges I have enjoyed, and the great satisfaction I have felt in witnessing so fine an exhibition.

At the conclusion of Mr. Fillmore's remarks, the boys gave three cheers, after which one of their school-fellows, John Hughes, a boy about nine years old, arose and addressed him as follows:—

SIR—We have often heard of those great men who have been distinguished in the annals of their country, and who have attained immortality in the pages of history; but, sir, it is the first time we have been honored by a personal interview with an ex-President of the United States—a worthy successor of Washington, the Father of his Country, and of those other great names handed down to us by our forefathers, with so much love and reverence. Honored sir, we heartily bid you welcome to Randall's Island. In this happy place the poor orphan has found a parent and a home. You see before you, sir, a practical illustration of the workings of that glorious principle contained in the Declaration of Independence, that "all men are born free and equal." This great principle of Christian democracy has raised us from destitution, with all its horrors, and placed us on the broad platform of humanity, where we have a fair chance of attaining in future life, all that the humble hopes of orphan children can aspire to—"life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." And now, sir, farewell. May peace and prosperity attend you on earth, and eternal life be your reward in Heaven. Now, boys, let us have three cheers for Millard Fillmore, ex-President of the United States.

And three cheers were accordingly given by the boys; after which Mr. Fillmore and the company took their leave, well pleased with the exhibition they had witnessed. They were next introduced to the girls' department, where the children went through several interesting exercises, under the direction of their teachers. On their way from this to the boat again, they were met by the young soldiers, who gave them three cheers as the Norwalk left the wharf. The number of boys in the institutions on Randall's Island is 627, and of girls 279.

Ward's Island was our next landing place, but the institutions there have been so often described that it is unnecessary to say much more about them. However, we cannot pass over our visit without mentioning one incident in it, showing the wonderful perfection to which the art of surgery has attained. We saw a wax model of an arm which was amputated above the shoulder by Dr. Carnochan. The operation was performed within the last month, and has, so far, been attended with the utmost success. The patient is walking about, and although the amputated arm presented a horrible and loathsome spectacle from scurvy, the disease has been entirely removed from his system by the operation.

From Ward's Island the company proceeded to Blackwell's Island, where, after visiting the institutions, they partook of an excellent entertainment. Of all the inmates none appeared to take so much interest in the visiters as the lunatics. Some of these poor creatures are quiet and inoffensive, and will talk with you a long time before you would suspect their insanity. One woman came up to us, and after shaking hands very warmly with Mr. Herrick, one of the Governors of the Alms House, entered into the most serious conversation with him, about the excellent care which she took of the establishment, and the manner in which she, herself a lunatic, treated her insane sisters.

"I have been here now ten years," said she, "and during that time I have paid every attention to those under my care."

"You have, indeed," said Mr. H.; "I am well aware of that, and we are greatly indebted to you for it."

"Well, you are welcome—good day;" and she shook hands with him in the most cordial manner.

Different was another we saw—a man who abused one of the doctors in the most violent manner. He bore the appearance of having been once a gentleman, and even through the ravings of the madman could be seen a certain refinement of manner.

"Tell my friends," he said, "that I have remained here longer than is necessary for my health, that I am tired of my residence, and would visit the world again."

"We shall certainly do so," replied one of the officers, willing to humor him.

"You shall certainly do so—then why did you not do so before, sir?" he rejoined.

To this of course no reply could be made, and he scolded the officer in the most violent manner.

Another poor fellow came over to us, and pleaded with the most beseeching entreaties to be liberated, while the object of another's great solicitude was to get change for a three-cent piece.

The visitors were joined, while at dinner, by Mr. Simeon Draper, chairman of the Board of Governors of the Almshouse. There was no speaking here, as Mr. Fillmore was pressed for time, and had to visit Greenwood Cemetery before returning to the city. After dinner, accordingly, they all hastened on board, and proceeded down the bay to the cemetery, where Mr. Fillmore, and a few of the company, disembarked, and the boat returned to New York. Thus terminated the first visit of ex-President Fillmore to our public institutions.

We take this opportunity to return our acknowledgments to Dr. Perkins, and other gentlemen connected with the institutions, for their attentions.

Mr. Fillmore leaves the city this morning, on his way home to Buffalo.

STILL FURTHER MARINE DISASTERS.

Further Particulars Respecting the Packet Ship Montezuma.

Our reporter arrived from the scene of the disaster last evening, bringing with him all the particulars of the affair. The Montezuma, Capt. Decourcy, which sailed for New York from Liverpool in April last, was freighted with a large assortment of English cargo and about 500 passengers. The voyage up to Thursday was quite prosperous; when about 2½ A. M. the passengers were thrown into the greatest state of alarm and excitement by the ship thumping heavily upon the outer bar of Jones' Beach, about ten miles from Hempstead, L. I. The Captain, it appeared, mistook the locality in the fog for Barnegat beach, and directed the sailing of the ship accordingly, keeping a man at the same time constantly sounding with the lead. The sea was running very high, and the wind being nearly east the vessel was driven high up upon the outer bar, about 600 yards from the shore. Having quieted the fears of the passengers, as quickly as possible, the anxious hundreds on board awaited the first appearance of daylight with eager expectation.

At an early hour in the morning, the people living for miles around were awakened by the firing of signal guns by those on board the Montezuma for aid. Hundreds immediately hastened to the beach, where the surf was very rough, rendering any communication with the ship a matter of impossibility.

Captain Denton the wreckmaster of this district, and an agent of the Underwriters, seeing the condition of the ship, had conveyed from the Government Station House the usual wrecking apparatus, consisting of the life car, cables, and a mortar, with which he made all possible haste to the water's edge. On his asking Captain Decourcey if he would shoot a line to the ship by means of the mortar, the commander replied, "that he considered the ship perfectly safe, until assistance arrived from New York." Therefore it would be unwise and unnecessary under those circumstances, to endanger the lives of the passengers, who crowded the decks of the ship from stem to stern.

About 7½ A. M., the wind having moderated, and the surf becoming less heavy, Capt. DeCourcey ventured to come ashore in one of the lifeboats along with three sailors, and with much difficulty succeeded in effecting a landing on the beach. This boat was not able to return to the ship on account of the breakers until nearly eleven o'clock, when a safe passage was made.

Word was immediately sent to the Board of Underwriters respecting the disaster, and Capt. Ellis, of the Atlantic Mutual, and Capt. Taylor, of the Mercantile Mutual Insurance Companies, were despatched to the vessel overland, giving orders previous to their departure to have a steamboat and schooner sent to the vessel.

When our reporter visited the Montezuma he found that she lay head on shore, in an easy position, with her bows sunk deep in the sand, and that she was hogged amidships. Fifteen feet of water was found to be in her hold, compelling her passengers to evacuate their premises in the steerage.

An attempt was made during the day, yesterday, to reach the ship from the beach, but the boat was filled with water, and the crew were compelled to desist from any further attempts until the steamboat arrived. Accordingly, when the Achilles arrived alongside with two wrecking schooners in tow the boat was pushed off, and amid the cheers of those on shore, arrived in safety at its destination.

The entire of yesterday afternoon was spent in transferring the passengers from the Montezuma to the Achilles by means of the life boats. Towards night this piece of work was performed, and the steamboat sailed for New York with all the passengers on board.

The Montezuma was built by Eckford, in the year 1844, and was valued at $40,000, on which there is a full insurance in the Atlantic, the Mercantile and the Sun Mutual insurance companies. If the weather continues fine for a week or so, she will probably be got off; but, otherwise, she will, after the cargo is taken out, go to pieces.

Latest from the Ships Ashore.

The ship William Layton, ashore at Squan Beach, lies head on, and appears tight. No communication had been held with the shore at last accounts, but all appear to be safe on board. If the weather is moderate, she will most probably be got off, she being a very strong vessel and nearly new, having been launched only last December from the yard of Mr. Patterson, at Williamsburg. She is a fine vessel of 1,050 tons, and on her first voyage, and worth about $65,000, for which she is covered by insurance. Her owners are E. D. Hurlbut & Co. There were 495 passengers on board. The steamer Hector and other assistance has been sent down to her.

The bark ashore near the William Layton, is reported to be the Coriolan, Capt. Wolfe, of and from Bremen, with 240 passengers. Her agents, Messrs. Hennings, Muller & Gosling, have had no communication from the vessel, and cannot vouch for the authenticity of the report. More definite intelligence will probably be received during the day. She lies about one mile north of the William Layton, and appears to be tight. The Coriolan is 560 tons register, built in 1849, and valued at $30,000, and covered by insurance in Europe. She had not much cargo.

Capt. Hall, of the propeller Western Port, arrived yesterday morning, from Baltimore, reports seeing the ship and bark ashore on Squan Beach, setting up straight, all sails loose, and discharging passengers in surf boats. It was very thick at the time.

TELEGRAPHIC.

DESTRUCTION OF THE SHIP HOPE BY FIRE.

MOBILE, May 17, 1854.

The ship Hope, Capt. Godwin, belonging to Philadelphia, was set on fire by the crew, and is totally destroyed.

MORE MARINE DISASTERS.

PROVIDENCE, May 19, 1854.

The schooner President of and for Portland, Sawyer, from Cardenas with molasses, went ashore on Black Rocks, southwest part of Block Island, in a thick fog on the 15th inst. at 1 o'clock A. M., and is a total loss. The Captain and crew remained by the wreck until daylight, and then took to the boats and rowed twelve miles to the north side of the island.

The schooner Peru, of Rockland, Smith, from New York for Bangor, went ashore on the west side of Block Island at midnight on the 15th in a fog, but got off by lightening the vessel, and she has arrived at Newport without damage.

Captain Hatfield, of the bark Nepenthe, arrived at this port, reports:—On the 20th ult., in lat. 50, lon. 35, fell in with and boarded the ship James L. Bogart, Howe, from Liverpool, of and for New York, with loss of mainmast, mizzentop mast, and otherwise damaged, in a hurricane on the 17th ult. The mate was sick, and they had lost one man overboard. The hull of the ship being in good order, Captain Howe had determined to put back to the nearest port (Cork,) if possible. When last seen at 8 P. M., on the 20th, he was steering southeast with foresail, foretopsail, and staysail set. Her passengers were all well.

SHIP COMMONWEALTH ASHORE.

BOSTON, May 19. 1854.

The new ship Commonwealth, Captain Knapp, from Newburyport for New Orleans, went ashore at 5 o'clock this morning, in a fog, on Spit Sand, Newburyport bar. She is a fine vessel, of 1,250 tons, owned by Messrs. Nickerson & Co., of this city, and others, and valued at $75,000, for which amount she is insured in State street.

Cuban Demonstration.

Yesterday being the fourth anniversary of the landing of the first liberating expedition, under the command of General Lopez, on the shores of Cuba, it was celebrated in an appropriate manner by the Cuban exiles residing in this city.

A short time after nightfall, a large assemblage of persons, composed of Americans, Germans, French, Italians, Poles, Hungarians and Cubans, collected at No. 600 Broadway, and marched thence down Broadway, through Fulton street, saluting the HERALD *en passant*, and returning to the Apollo Rooms, No. 400 Broadway. That spacious hall was admirably fitted up for the evening's entertainment. Over the platform was the banner of the "Lone Star," with various devices, such as "Humanidad,"—"Ateneo Democratico Cubano"—"Luz"—"Union"—"Libertad," inscribed above it. The Polish eagle on a red flag, bearing the inscription "Bogilad," or "God and the People;" one bearing as a motto, "Poland fallen, but not lost," and another, "Death to Tyrants," were placed on either side of the Cuban standard; while a figure of Lopez standing on a marble pedestal, on which the words "Mayo 19 de 1850" were engraved, formed one of the most conspicuous ornaments.

The rooms were occupied by a great number of ladies and gentlemen, and when the procession arrived, at about half past nine o'clock, they were filled to their utmost capacity. On the platform we noticed Senor Tolon, the President, and other members of the Cuban Democratic Athenæum, the Vice President of the Turners' Society, and the President of the Society of La Montagne.

Senor TOLON was the first who addressed the meeting. The following is a brief sketch of his remarks, delivered in the Spanish language:—Cubans—This is to us both a day of joy and a day of grief. We celebrate to-day the fourth anniversary of the landing of the first liberating expedition on the shores of Cuba, under the command of our unhappy yet illustrious General, Narciso Lopez. It is joy to recollect that on the morning of the 19th of May, 1850, while the morning star shone brightly behind crimson clouds, the star of that flag (pointing to the Cuban ensign, shone also, hoisted amid the whirlwind of battle, with the incense of powder, baptized with the blood of our enemies, and kissed by the breezes of our native land. That morning beheld the first smile of Cuba, after three and a half centuries of slavery. The veil of darkness was broken in the temple of Spanish tyranny. But yet, Cubans, since that day the "*Mene, mene, thekel upharsin*" was written on the walls of the American Babylon. That warning in Scripture is every day renewed by the blood of enthusiastic patriots.

The next speaker was Colonel FORNER. He said—That the duty of republican revolutionists was to consider first, whether the step they were about taking in any popular movement was right, and being satisfied on that point, to agitate constantly, even at any self-sacrifice. Those who calculated beforehand whether the expedition in which they might be engaged would be that