

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR.

OFFICE No. 37, CORNER OF NASSAU AND PULCHER STS.

TERMS: In Advance. THE DAILY HERALD is published every day except on Sundays, and on the 1st of each month. The price is \$1 per annum in advance, or \$1.25 per annum in arrears. Single copies are sold at 5 cents. All letters must be addressed to the Proprietor, and must be paid for in advance. No notice is given of anonymous communications. We do not return them. ADVERTISEMENTS: Received on day.

Volume XXI, No. 381

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

- ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Fourteenth street—I PURITAN. BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway—THE CROWNED HEADS—MY FRIEND THE MAJOR. BOVEY THEATRE, Bovey—EQUESTRIAN PERFORMANCE—RODOLFO. HIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway—THE STARK. BURTON'S, Chambers street—UPPER TEN AND LOWER TWENTY—TRYING IT ON. NATIONAL THEATRE, Chatham street—BENT DAY—THE YANKEE—HARRYP THE SECOND. WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway—WEEDS AMONG THE FLOWERS—THE WINDMILL. METROPOLITAN THEATRE, Broadway—THE FINISHED PARTNER—GOOD FOR NOTHING. AMERICAN MUSEUM—Afternoon and Evening—HENRIETTA. WOOD'S VARIETIES—Mechanics' Hall, 42 Broadway. BECKLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, 339 Broadway—BUCKLEY'S ETHIOPIAN OPERA TROUPE. WOOD'S MINSTRELS—Mineral Hall, 44 Broadway. CASTLE GARDEN—EQUESTRIAN PERFORMANCE.

New York, Wednesday, November 24, 1854.

The steamships Herman and Canada are fully laden for Europe. The former left Southamton this port on the 18th inst., and the latter left Liverpool for Boston, via Halifax, on the 11th. The intelligence we shall receive by these arrivals will no doubt prove highly interesting, and it is anxiously looked for.

We publish to-day a most interesting letter from our San Domingo (city) correspondent, dated on the 19th of October, in which he portrays the extraordinary political commotion which then existed there with regard to the "Canezan treaty," and the very decided adverse official action of the English and French consuls relative to its ratification. It appears that his anointed Majesty Souleouque, President of the First—had, on the representation of the above-named governments, threatened to "let loose" the Haytiens on the republic of Santa Domingo, provided the people perfected such a measure; but the appearance of Commodore Norton in the United States frigate Columbia, backed by a couple of sloops-of-war, had brought things to a crisis. Our correspondent will soon inform us of the issue, and in the meantime he alludes to the omnipotence of English interference in every case where popular liberty is about to lead.

The ship Herald of the Morning, which arrived at this port yesterday from Callao, sent a boat into Mr. Thomas, on the 9th inst., for orders, and reports that the supposed filibustering expedition, composed of the steamer Benjamin Franklin and the bark Catherine Augusta, which sailed hence last September, remained in port. The boat also reported a schooner, from New York, as forming a part of the expeditionary fleet.

By way of New Orleans we have news from Cuba to the 16th inst. It is of great importance, provided it be true, and it is the effect that the inhabitants were in a state of the wildest enthusiasm, and contemplated an important rising in the course of a few days. What connection if any the schooner set at Baracoa and the alleged filibuster fleet recently in the harbor of St. Thomas may have with the Cuban patriots remains to be ascertained. The reports of a revolt at Puerto Principe, and of the imprisonment of the Governor of Trinidad at Havana are probably the foundation of the statement of the contemplated rising.

A bold attempt was made to burn up a family on Monday night, at No. 34 Frankfort street, by setting fire to a back cellar of those premises. Almost all the inmates had retired to bed, when a woman named Mary Lynch was caught coming from the cellar, and immediately after the fire was discovered. The act is supposed to have been one of revenge, as a quarrel had taken place between the owners of the house and the woman charged with the service. An account of the investigation by the Fire Marshal, before Justice Osborne, will be found elsewhere.

The firemen at the burning of a store at No. 33 Chatham street, last night, rescued a mother and four children from a second story window. A few moments longer and they must have perished. It was a noble act.

The Albany Governor met yesterday afternoon. On the 18th inst. there were 6,457 persons in the institutions under the charge of these functionaries. The Board of Commissioners provided for by the amended city charter have drawn up a report, in which the Governors are accused of extravagance in the expenditures. This is certainly an extraordinary discovery, and tells well for the penetration of the Commissioners. The hospitable Ten Governors are requested to retrench.

Under the police head we give an account of the financial operations of an individual named Thomas J. Dowden, who has succeeded in obtaining considerable sums of money by making out bills for debts and collecting them. Dowden, it is supposed, has been engaged in this business for a long time. His genius was mainly directed to the collection of newspaper debts, though he occasionally favored other branches of trade with his attention.

Argument was heard yesterday in the United States Circuit Court for a new trial in the case of James Smith, captain of the Julia Moulton, convicted of trafficking in slaves. The decision is reserved. A full report of this case, it will be remembered, was recently published in this paper.

The Varieties theatre, at New Orleans, was totally destroyed by fire early yesterday morning. The wardrobe was also destroyed. The loss is estimated at seventy-five thousand dollars. The manager, Mr. T. Placide, who was sleeping in the building, narrowly escaped.

The Hudson and Berkshire Railroad was sold at auction yesterday at Albany by the Comptroller. It was bid off for one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. See dispatch from Albany, under the telegraphic head, which gives a brief history of the unfortunate connection that has existed between this road and the State.

Governor Seymour has appointed Dr. T. Romeyn Beck, of Albany, Hon. John W. Mills, of Westchester, and Hon. Lemuel Stetson, of Clinton, Commissioners to investigate the charge of official misconduct and neglect made against Messrs. Clark and Storms, Inspectors of State Prisons.

Working Up at Last.—The Proposed Cabinet and Diplomatic Changes at Washington. The thunder and lightning, and wind and rattling hail of the late elections have waked up the administration at Washington to a lively sense of its desperate situation. The terror-stricken cabinet, with the bankers tumbling and roaring around him, has resolved upon some very bold and desperate expedients to avoid shipwreck. Marcy is to be removed from the wheel of the Cabinet, and Cushing is to take his place. Buchanan is to make room at the Court of St. James for Marcy, and various other important ministerial and diplomatic changes, in connection with these primary movements, are to be made.

According to our telegraphic advices, the time fixed for the momentous experiments is the middle of next January, after the President shall have fully consulted the heads of the party in the two houses of Congress. It is thought that the new and tempting appropriation of the spoils which these contemplated changes will bring about, will result in rallying again the democratic members of the two houses, leaving only three months to run, in a solid body, to the support of the administration and its measures, and to its defence as the head and front of the real ginger-blue, Simon Pure democratic party.

Well, we said in the beginning that nothing could save the administration from a disastrous failure, or the party from demoralization, dissolution and destruction, but a change in the Cabinet, in the diplomatic corps, and in the domestic and foreign policy with which General Pierce, helter-skelter, set out upon the "road to ruin." We rejoice that the late elections have opened his eyes; it is late in the day—it is the eleventh hour; but still he may save his skin.

We approve the projected plan of a reconstruction of his Cabinet and his diplomatic corps. If we get nothing else, we shall get a change; and a long one. But it is two months yet till the middle of January, and we have our fears. If the business were to be done upon the spot, we might feel satisfied. We agree with Macbeth, that it ought to be "done quickly." Before the middle of January, Congressional caucuses, and the plots of the Kitchen, may break up the scheme. But being decidedly in favor of a change in the Cabinet, and in our diplomatic corps, the President may rely upon our assistance in holding him to it, against all plots and counterplots, from this day till the middle of January; and we call upon every other independent journal in the country to come up to the aid of the executive, and hold him to it, just as Douglas and Mason held him to the Nebraska bill, or he may slip through our fingers. We must stand guard over him, and defeat all Congressional or Kitchen conspiracies against him, from this time to the middle of January. If we do this we may secure a reconstruction of the Cabinet, a new set of diplomats in Europe, and the administration may go to bed in a perfect blaze of glory, to come again.

It is proposed to remove Marcy from the State Department. Good. He has been the Marplot, the Micawber, of the whole concern. It is proposed to put C. S. King—General Caleb Cushing—in his place. Very well. Reduced as the democratic party now is, it would be difficult to find a more available stick of timber. Cushing is a remarkable man. A gentleman in his manners, a scholar by education, a Puritan in his looks, a diplomat from experience, a soldier from discipline, and, perhaps, the most elastic and unscrupulous demagogue in the United States, Cushing is the man for Premier. He thoroughly understands the party politics of the country, for he has belonged to all parties—"everything by turns, and nothing long." He has been the pride of the whigs, the forlorn hope of Captain Tyler, the right arm of Colonel Polk, a leader of the free soilers, and the champion of the South and at present he is very likely a master among the Know Nothings. And, as in our party politics he has been everything, and knows everything, so in diplomacy, he has literally accomplished the circumnavigation of the globe. Yes, he has sailed round the world. As Commissioner to China, he went out via the Mediterranean, the Red Sea, Bombay and the Indian Ocean; and having made his famous treaty with the Imperial Commissioner of the Central Flowery Kingdom, he returned via the Sandwich Islands and Mexico. The theory of Columbus was, that from the rotundity of the earth he could make a trip to the East Indies by a Western passage. Cushing, reversing this theory, actually made a trip to the West Indies by going East all the time. And if Columbus opened a new world to civilization man in his discoveries, so did Cushing in his Chinese treaty.

Furthermore, in the event of a bloody rupture with France and Spain, the active experience of General Cushing in our late glorious Mexican war, will be of immense practical service to him in the State Department, in the matter of our warlike operations by land and sea. As a scholar, a politician, a diplomat and a soldier, therefore, the vast learning and remarkable experience and flexibility of Cushing will render him a highly desirable exchange for Marcy as Premier. The gentleman from Massachusetts, too, has been promised the place for a long time; and he has been waiting long enough. Let Marcy go out, and let Cushing go in, at least by the middle of January.

We cannot approve the plan of exchanging Marcy for Buchanan as our Minister to England. We believe this has been a purpose with Gen. Pierce for a year or two, but the exchange will be a bad one. Buchanan is a Pennsylvania gentleman and a scholar, a man of polish and refinement, as far as Pennsylvania anthracite, will admit of a polish; while Marcy is coarse, vulgar and repulsive in his appearance, his conversation, his manners, and his instincts. He might suit, from the congeniality of their habits and customs, as an ambassador to the cannibals of the Foece or Loo-Choo islands, but to put Marcy in the place of Buchanan would be like putting a C. ifo nio grizzly bear in the place of a Pennsylvania Conestoga draught horse. Yet, again, the transfer of Marcy to London would spoil at once the whole of the warlike Soule and Buchanan programme, which contemplates the acquisition of Cuba, "by hook or by crook," in less than six months.

But notwithstanding this and other drawbacks, we go for a change in the Cabinet, and a clean sweep in our European diplomatic corps. We have our fears of the weakness, timidity and indecision of the President, but we may, perhaps, succeed in holding him to it. If there is any way to fix this good purpose in his mind, and to make it stick like Old Hickory, or even like shorn sheep's wax—if there is any process by chloroform, or electro-magnetism, or electricity, or spiritual manifestations, to make it stick, we call upon all concerned to join us.

WAR WITH SARDEINIA.—We learn from Genoa that our Minister to Sardinia, Mr. Daniels, has been expelled from a club of gentlemen at Turin, probably in consequence of his having written a celebrated letter, hardly less interesting than the missives of Mr. Soule. What will the Cabinet at Washington say to this insult to our national honor? Are we to quietly submit to the indignity of having our Ministers expelled out of good society all over Europe? Let us have war with Sardinia, as well as with Spain and France. We wait for a becoming notice of these outrages in the forthcoming message. If the Emperor of Russia has to contend with the allied Western Powers, we may have a war with the allied Eastern Powers before any one knows it. Where is Dobbin and his navy?

BELMONT, THE ROTHSCHILDS AND THE CABINET ORGAN.—Accidentally, the article from the Washington Union, in defence of Mr. August Belmont, which should have appeared in yesterday's HERALD, was omitted. We publish it to-day, and invite our readers to read it and our remarks, and judge for themselves. We have merely touched upon some of the leading

facts in the financial and diplomatic career of our Minister at the Hague. If the Washington Union desires to know the precise value of those Belmont certificates, from gentlemen whose evidence is but a confession of their entire ignorance of the subject matter in dispute, or if the President is really ignorant of the financial operations of his protégé at the Hague, we have no doubt that a great deal of valuable information may yet be easily obtained in the case. The case is still open. Let Belmont be sworn to on the Old Testament, to an exact denial of his alleged implication in behalf of Russia for a loan from the Rothschilds, and the Jews may be left him.

The Duties of Mayor Under the City Charter.—After the expulsion of the Kings of Rome, the government was entrusted by the people to two men, who were called Consuls. Their authority was so great as to appear at the present day inconsistent with personal liberty. They initiated all laws, and gave them validity at last by their assent; assembled the Senate and convoked meetings of the people; controlled the whole foreign relations of the republic; levied taxes, received the revenue, commanded and paid the army; acted as Governors of the conquered provinces, and enjoyed the most part of the State patronage. Yet this system lasted nearly five centuries without producing any evil effect. The reason was very simple: the Consuls were elected annually, and were two in number, so that, in the words of a quaint historian, "they could not restrain one another, and restrain, they might, the great power." The plan which at Rome prevented the consular tyranny from being felt for so long a period of time was obviously uppermost in the mind of the framers of our city charter of 1849. The tenth section of that law enacts that "The executive power of the Corporation shall be vested in the Mayor, the heads of departments, and such other executive officers as shall be from time to time created by law." This enactment is preserved by a continuing clause in the subsequent legislation of 1853, and is still in force. It is manifest, at the very first reading, that it was the intention of the legislator to restrain and balance the authority of the heads of departments by connecting the Mayor with them in all executive acts. The act of 1830 afforded some excuse for the pretence that the Mayor had no concern with the heads of departments. In that law it is said (sec. 21) that "the executive business of the Corporation of New York shall hereafter be performed by distinct departments," without allusion to the Mayor. But this concentration of power in the heads of departments obviously ceased the moment the act of 1849, above quoted, came into force. The "distinct departments" ceased to "perform the executive business of the Corporation," for that "executive business" and "power" were thenceforth "vested in the Mayor and heads of departments." Unless we suppose that the words of the act of 1849, which re-enumerate the departments, were written in inadvertence, and unconsciously of their import, we are bound to conclude that it was the intention of the former statute to confer upon the Mayor larger powers than he had formerly possessed, and to invest him with a sort of general superintendence over the departments to which the transaction of the executive business was committed. If this has not been urged before, the anomaly is due to the inertness of our Mayors and the ambition of the heads of departments. The former have not sought to extend their authority, for responsibility would have been commensurate therewith; while the latter, generally elected by chicanery, fraud and corruption, have invariably made it a paramount object to engross all the power they could. But neither the usurpations of the latter nor the acquiescence of the former can alter the true meaning of the law. If the section we have quoted associates the Mayor with the heads of departments in the transaction of the executive business—and this is the meaning of the words used, if they have any meaning at all—no set of individual officers of the Corporation can divest him of the right or exonerate him from the obligation of sharing in every act performed by these independent subordinates. He is bound to take cognizance of the acts of the Street Department, and sanction or withhold his consent from the opening of new streets; bound to participate in every act of the Department of "Repairs and Supplies;" of that of "Streets and Lamps;" of that of the "Croton Aqueduct Board;" of that of the "Alms House, and in fact of all the other departments organized by the charter. If he follows the example of his predecessors, and permits the heads of departments to transact the executive business of their departments without him, he is a principal as well as an accessory in violating the law.

We cannot exaggerate the benefits which might flow from this construction of the law by our new Mayor. In the single Department of Finance a world of good might be done by a new and energetic man who should refuse to allow himself to be hoodwinked and led by the nose by the Comptroller. This officer, who under the presence of economy, has been stampering a petty leak here and there in the city funds, while he took out the spigot altogether on the other side, would act very differently if he were compelled to secure the acquiescence of the Mayor before carrying out his measures. We should then find that it is possible to cry loudly about economy without practising it; to plauge the city into law suits to save a few thousand dollars while the taxes are increased at the rate of millions. And if Mr. Flagg were given to understand that henceforth Mr. Wood's consent was as essential as his own to the executive business of his department, it might be that such a vivid and new light would be thrown on the real condition of our finances as would altogether outline the path.

At all events, in this, as in the other departments, there is no doubt but mischiefs have crept in, and negligence prevailed to a very gross extent. The question is how shall we remedy this evil? To talk to the elected heads of departments is, we know, futile; for they are both interested in preserving the abuse, and opposed to necessary and in some cases, injudicious correction. The only person who can control them, with any semblance of law, is the Mayor. To the Mayor, therefore, do we appeal to take the part of the people against the municipal officers. He can effectually neutralize all knavish schemes, or negligent acts in any department; and if we know that he is doing so, public discontent at the Corporation will rapidly disappear. All that is wanted for him to undertake the work is a stimulus; we should think after the abuse lavished on Mr. Wood that this motive was not wanting in his case.

Blunders in Diplomacy of the Administration.—England, it appears, according to Mr. Buchanan, declines coming to any satisfactory conclusion regarding the Central American question, now that she has succeeded in getting all that she required at our hands for her own ends, by the ratification of the reciprocity treaty. This result might have been anticipated, and demonstrates the serious injury which we are made to suffer through the ignorance and stupidity of the incapables at Washington. It is only one of many instances which could be adduced, but it is of sufficient importance for its effects yet to be felt in the complication of our affairs on this continent, and in the practical enunciation of the Monroe doctrine. All the advantages which might have been gained by a peaceful abandonment on the part of England of her pretensions, both on the Mosquito coast and at the Belize, have been thrown away by the eagerness of Mr. Marcy to negotiate a treaty which properly should have been left with Mr. Buchanan as a portion, and a portion only, of the pending questions in controversy. But England has gained all she desired, and declines to give any reply to the pressing invitation now made to adjust the Central American question upon a basis consistent with our just requirements and an honest interpretation of that jumble commonly designated the Clayton-Bulwer treaty.

The diplomacy of the Pierce administration is fully in keeping with its home policy—a wretched failure. Mr. Soule has managed to conduct himself in such a way as not only to destroy any social influence an American Minister might properly claim, but to exasperate the government near which he resides so as to close all further negotiations. Mr. Belmont has conducted the matter confided to his charge—Capt. Gibson's case—to the same point; and now Mr. Buchanan writes home that owing to the blunder of the Cabinet in separating the questions at issue with the English government, and permitting Lord Elgin to outwit them, he must abandon all attempts to bring about an adjustment of the Central American difficulty, and return home with the mortifying reflection that his diplomatic career will be wholly barren of results.

It is particularly humiliating to know that the slightest evidence of common sense on the part of Mr. Marcy would have secured us a prompt adjustment of the vexed question connected with British interference and scheming in Central America. The anxiety of the English government to obtain the advantages of the markets of the United States for her colonists, previous to the negotiation of the reciprocity treaty, scarcely concealed, and is now openly acknowledged. Who can for a moment hesitate in sharing with Mr. Buchanan the belief that had the reciprocity treaty remained unseparated from the other questions, that a convention would have resulted which would have effectually set at rest all future attempts on the part of England to extend her colonial possessions on this continent, or to interfere in any way with the territorial progress or commercial intercourse of the United States?

It is plain, then, that the jealousy, stupidity, and ignorance of Mr. Marcy and the administration have been, in this instance, of serious injury to our interests, and that England is reaping the fruits of it. Whilst the President is complacently chucking over the fact that he has made a treaty which throws open the markets of the United States to the colonists of British North America, with scarcely a conceivable advantage to this country in return, the English government is laughing at their success in getting all they desired, and at the same time being able to hold on to the Mosquito protectorate, and to checkmate our progress in Central America, by continuing to secure a footing there.

Such is the result of the only diplomatic achievement of the present administration. With every advantage on their side for the enforcement of an adjustment which would have covered all the questions pending between the two governments, they have allowed themselves to be outwitted, or else they have deliberately betrayed the interests confided to their charge. A more brilliant opportunity was never offered to any government to secure the most favorable concessions. A greater or more complete failure cannot be imagined. Imbecility, combined with dishonesty, can alone account for such conduct; and certainly on every side the administration is held guilty of both these charges. Imbecile abroad and dishonest at home, it ceases to be a matter of surprise that whilst the intelligence and prosperity of the American people command respect, the President and his Cabinet are viewed with derision and contempt, unmingled by a single doubt as to the justice of the feeling.

WAR WITH SARDEINIA.—We learn from Genoa that our Minister to Sardinia, Mr. Daniels, has been expelled from a club of gentlemen at Turin, probably in consequence of his having written a celebrated letter, hardly less interesting than the missives of Mr. Soule. What will the Cabinet at Washington say to this insult to our national honor? Are we to quietly submit to the indignity of having our Ministers expelled out of good society all over Europe? Let us have war with Sardinia, as well as with Spain and France. We wait for a becoming notice of these outrages in the forthcoming message. If the Emperor of Russia has to contend with the allied Western Powers, we may have a war with the allied Eastern Powers before any one knows it. Where is Dobbin and his navy?

BELMONT, THE ROTHSCHILDS AND THE CABINET ORGAN.—Accidentally, the article from the Washington Union, in defence of Mr. August Belmont, which should have appeared in yesterday's HERALD, was omitted. We publish it to-day, and invite our readers to read it and our remarks, and judge for themselves. We have merely touched upon some of the leading

facts in the financial and diplomatic career of our Minister at the Hague. If the Washington Union desires to know the precise value of those Belmont certificates, from gentlemen whose evidence is but a confession of their entire ignorance of the subject matter in dispute, or if the President is really ignorant of the financial operations of his protégé at the Hague, we have no doubt that a great deal of valuable information may yet be easily obtained in the case. The case is still open. Let Belmont be sworn to on the Old Testament, to an exact denial of his alleged implication in behalf of Russia for a loan from the Rothschilds, and the Jews may be left him.

The Duties of Mayor Under the City Charter.—After the expulsion of the Kings of Rome, the government was entrusted by the people to two men, who were called Consuls. Their authority was so great as to appear at the present day inconsistent with personal liberty. They initiated all laws, and gave them validity at last by their assent; assembled the Senate and convoked meetings of the people; controlled the whole foreign relations of the republic; levied taxes, received the revenue, commanded and paid the army; acted as Governors of the conquered provinces, and enjoyed the most part of the State patronage. Yet this system lasted nearly five centuries without producing any evil effect. The reason was very simple: the Consuls were elected annually, and were two in number, so that, in the words of a quaint historian, "they could not restrain one another, and restrain, they might, the great power." The plan which at Rome prevented the consular tyranny from being felt for so long a period of time was obviously uppermost in the mind of the framers of our city charter of 1849. The tenth section of that law enacts that "The executive power of the Corporation shall be vested in the Mayor, the heads of departments, and such other executive officers as shall be from time to time created by law." This enactment is preserved by a continuing clause in the subsequent legislation of 1853, and is still in force. It is manifest, at the very first reading, that it was the intention of the legislator to restrain and balance the authority of the heads of departments by connecting the Mayor with them in all executive acts. The act of 1830 afforded some excuse for the pretence that the Mayor had no concern with the heads of departments. In that law it is said (sec. 21) that "the executive business of the Corporation of New York shall hereafter be performed by distinct departments," without allusion to the Mayor. But this concentration of power in the heads of departments obviously ceased the moment the act of 1849, above quoted, came into force. The "distinct departments" ceased to "perform the executive business of the Corporation," for that "executive business" and "power" were thenceforth "vested in the Mayor and heads of departments." Unless we suppose that the words of the act of 1849, which re-enumerate the departments, were written in inadvertence, and unconsciously of their import, we are bound to conclude that it was the intention of the former statute to confer upon the Mayor larger powers than he had formerly possessed, and to invest him with a sort of general superintendence over the departments to which the transaction of the executive business was committed. If this has not been urged before, the anomaly is due to the inertness of our Mayors and the ambition of the heads of departments. The former have not sought to extend their authority, for responsibility would have been commensurate therewith; while the latter, generally elected by chicanery, fraud and corruption, have invariably made it a paramount object to engross all the power they could. But neither the usurpations of the latter nor the acquiescence of the former can alter the true meaning of the law. If the section we have quoted associates the Mayor with the heads of departments in the transaction of the executive business—and this is the meaning of the words used, if they have any meaning at all—no set of individual officers of the Corporation can divest him of the right or exonerate him from the obligation of sharing in every act performed by these independent subordinates. He is bound to take cognizance of the acts of the Street Department, and sanction or withhold his consent from the opening of new streets; bound to participate in every act of the Department of "Repairs and Supplies;" of that of "Streets and Lamps;" of that of the "Croton Aqueduct Board;" of that of the "Alms House, and in fact of all the other departments organized by the charter. If he follows the example of his predecessors, and permits the heads of departments to transact the executive business of their departments without him, he is a principal as well as an accessory in violating the law.

We cannot exaggerate the benefits which might flow from this construction of the law by our new Mayor. In the single Department of Finance a world of good might be done by a new and energetic man who should refuse to allow himself to be hoodwinked and led by the nose by the Comptroller. This officer, who under the presence of economy, has been stampering a petty leak here and there in the city funds, while he took out the spigot altogether on the other side, would act very differently if he were compelled to secure the acquiescence of the Mayor before carrying out his measures. We should then find that it is possible to cry loudly about economy without practising it; to plauge the city into law suits to save a few thousand dollars while the taxes are increased at the rate of millions. And if Mr. Flagg were given to understand that henceforth Mr. Wood's consent was as essential as his own to the executive business of his department, it might be that such a vivid and new light would be thrown on the real condition of our finances as would altogether outline the path.

At all events, in this, as in the other departments, there is no doubt but mischiefs have crept in, and negligence prevailed to a very gross extent. The question is how shall we remedy this evil? To talk to the elected heads of departments is, we know, futile; for they are both interested in preserving the abuse, and opposed to necessary and in some cases, injudicious correction. The only person who can control them, with any semblance of law, is the Mayor. To the Mayor, therefore, do we appeal to take the part of the people against the municipal officers. He can effectually neutralize all knavish schemes, or negligent acts in any department; and if we know that he is doing so, public discontent at the Corporation will rapidly disappear. All that is wanted for him to undertake the work is a stimulus; we should think after the abuse lavished on Mr. Wood that this motive was not wanting in his case.

Blunders in Diplomacy of the Administration.—England, it appears, according to Mr. Buchanan, declines coming to any satisfactory conclusion regarding the Central American question, now that she has succeeded in getting all that she required at our hands for her own ends, by the ratification of the reciprocity treaty. This result might have been anticipated, and demonstrates the serious injury which we are made to suffer through the ignorance and stupidity of the incapables at Washington. It is only one of many instances which could be adduced, but it is of sufficient importance for its effects yet to be felt in the complication of our affairs on this continent, and in the practical enunciation of the Monroe doctrine. All the advantages which might have been gained by a peaceful abandonment on the part of England of her pretensions, both on the Mosquito coast and at the Belize, have been thrown away by the eagerness of Mr. Marcy to negotiate a treaty which properly should have been left with Mr. Buchanan as a portion, and a portion only, of the pending questions in controversy. But England has gained all she desired, and declines to give any reply to the pressing invitation now made to adjust the Central American question upon a basis consistent with our just requirements and an honest interpretation of that jumble commonly designated the Clayton-Bulwer treaty.

The diplomacy of the Pierce administration is fully in keeping with its home policy—a wretched failure. Mr. Soule has managed to conduct himself in such a way as not only to destroy any social influence an American Minister might properly claim, but to exasperate the government near which he resides so as to close all further negotiations. Mr. Belmont has conducted the matter confided to his charge—Capt. Gibson's case—to the same point; and now Mr. Buchanan writes home that owing to the blunder of the Cabinet in separating the questions at issue with the English government, and permitting Lord Elgin to outwit them, he must abandon all attempts to bring about an adjustment of the Central American difficulty, and return home with the mortifying reflection that his diplomatic career will be wholly barren of results.

It is particularly humiliating to know that the slightest evidence of common sense on the part of Mr. Marcy would have secured us a prompt adjustment of the vexed question connected with British interference and scheming in Central America. The anxiety of the English government to obtain the advantages of the markets of the United States for her colonists, previous to the negotiation of the reciprocity treaty, scarcely concealed, and is now openly acknowledged. Who can for a moment hesitate in sharing with Mr. Buchanan the belief that had the reciprocity treaty remained unseparated from the other questions, that a convention would have resulted which would have effectually set at rest all future attempts on the part of England to extend her colonial possessions on this continent, or to interfere in any way with the territorial progress or commercial intercourse of the United States?

It is plain, then, that the jealousy, stupidity, and ignorance of Mr. Marcy and the administration have been, in this instance, of serious injury to our interests, and that England is reaping the fruits of it. Whilst the President is complacently chucking over the fact that he has made a treaty which throws open the markets of the United States to the colonists of British North America, with scarcely a conceivable advantage to this country in return, the English government is laughing at their success in getting all they desired, and at the same time being able to hold on to the Mosquito protectorate, and to checkmate our progress in Central America, by continuing to secure a footing there.

Such is the result of the only diplomatic achievement of the present administration. With every advantage on their side for the enforcement of an adjustment which would have covered all the questions pending between the two governments, they have allowed themselves to be outwitted, or else they have deliberately betrayed the interests confided to their charge. A more brilliant opportunity was never offered to any government to secure the most favorable concessions. A greater or more complete failure cannot be imagined. Imbecility, combined with dishonesty, can alone account for such conduct; and certainly on every side the administration is held guilty of both these charges. Imbecile abroad and dishonest at home, it ceases to be a matter of surprise that whilst the intelligence and prosperity of the American people command respect, the President and his Cabinet are viewed with derision and contempt, unmingled by a single doubt as to the justice of the feeling.

WAR WITH SARDEINIA.—We learn from Genoa that our Minister to Sardinia, Mr. Daniels, has been expelled from a club of gentlemen at Turin, probably in consequence of his having written a celebrated letter, hardly less interesting than the missives of Mr. Soule. What will the Cabinet at Washington say to this insult to our national honor? Are we to quietly submit to the indignity of having our Ministers expelled out of good society all over Europe? Let us have war with Sardinia, as well as with Spain and France. We wait for a becoming notice of these outrages in the forthcoming message. If the Emperor of Russia has to contend with the allied Western Powers, we may have a war with the allied Eastern Powers before any one knows it. Where is Dobbin and his navy?

MEXICAN AFFAIRS.—Santa Anna is about again to consult what he calls the Mexican nation on the subject of his own authority. On the 1st December next all Mexicans will be called upon to say whether the present President of the republic shall continue as chief magistrate, or if not, to whom he shall remit the Presidency. Of course, as Santa Anna by converting the States of Mexico into Départments, and subjecting them to general officers, has completely suppressed free opinion therein, it does not matter whether he appeals to the people or not. The vote, as reported, is sure to be largely in his favor. This is another move in the great financial game which the Mexican ruler is playing. The vote of 1st December is not intended to tell upon the people of Mexico but on the money market in New York, London and Paris. Santa Anna has not yet obtained the three millions he is endeavoring to procure from the bankers and financiers in advance of payment by the United States government. As the Gadsden swindle was precise enough in its terms, there would have been no difficulty in getting the balance of the money, which will become payable in due course the moment the boundary line is drawn, had not Santa Anna's position been uncertain and precarious. But so long as the rebels appeared to be successful, doubt overhung the prospects of the Mexican chief; he might at any moment be prostrated from power, and in that case it would be questionable whether the United States government would choose to recognize an assignment of his claim made previously to a financier. Hence, notwithstanding the positive certainty that the administration were prepared to carry out to the utmost the public robbery which Santa Anna's paper appeared to have commenced, capitalists hung back when Santa Anna's paper appeared in the market.

This election is expected to remove their scruples. As the dictator will take care that nine out of ten votes are polled for him, he will then turn triumphantly to the capitalists, and point to the overwhelming evidence of his popularity presented by the popular suffrage. He will never suspect that they know as well as he does that the whole of Mexico is at present under the worst kind of martial law: that the votes will be polled on the 1st of December under the intimidation of bayonets; and that opposition to the person of the President will be regarded by the soldiery as the worst species of treason.

We cannot tell what success may attend this new trick; but if capitalists are wise, they will observe negotiations with governments which hold power by so precarious a tenure as Mexico. It is notorious that the whole of the Mexican States are in a state of convulsion: illegal violence, martial tyranny, and rapine having for the time completely effaced every trace of the working of democratic institutions therein. The Mexican republic is in fact falling to pieces. It would have gone already had it not been for the seven millions stolen by our administration and given to Santa Anna; if the remaining three do not follow soon, they will be too late.

CITY POSTAL REFORMS.—The present system of New York city letter delivery is a disgrace to the department. The strong contrast between the miserable mis-management of such affairs here and the admirable system adopted in London and Paris, is apparent at once to those who have experienced the convenience of the one and the miserable, petty annoyance of the other. The subject has been frequently mentioned by the city press, and we publish to-day a letter to the Postmaster, containing much information as to the past, and several valuable suggestions for the future. This letter was written nearly eighteen months since, and to it is appended a report on the subject, made in December of last year.

It is now suggested that it is quite time that something was done for the accommodation of up-town correspondents. Since the report was made, their postal conveniences, instead of being increased, have been cut off by the abolition of the sub-post offices. The Broadway Post Office, which was a great convenience to thousands of shopkeepers up town, was abolished by Mr. Fowler, who, it is said, went so far as to give precedence to letters deposited in Nassau street over those which were brought from Broadway. At any rate, it is certain that letters were deposited in the Broadway Post Office, and afterwards, either by design or accident, were laid over in the General Post Office during three or four days.

As matters now stand, citizens residing above Fortieth street may get a letter by carrier in the course of two or three days after it has reached Nassau street; and if the correspondent is aware of the location of a box, his answer may reach Nassau street in sixty hours. He will generally prefer to lose an hour's time and incur the expense of riding down town to deposit it.

The plan proposed by Mr. Tremayne is an excellent one, and Mr. Postmaster Fowler should give it his immediate attention. We should have certainly four sub-post offices, and a sufficient number of boxes for the convenience of correspondents on all parts of the island.

From Albany.—SALE OF THE HUDSON AND BERKSHIRE RAILROAD. ALBANY, Nov. 21, 1854. In days past, when the Legislative and financial officers of our State government tendered the credit of the State to rickety railway companies, the Hudson and Berkshire road, some thirty miles in extent, was supplied with one hundred and fifty thousand dollars of State bonds upon loan, the interest upon which was paid for a year or two. Then the road became so dilapidated that a new rail must be laid or the road abandoned. The Legislature was induced to surrender the State lien in order that two hundred thousand dollars might be borrowed in order to lay down a rail.

The interest upon those bonds was discontinued to be met some two years since, when Comptroller Wright, in accordance with vested power, advertised the road, together with all its appurtenances, for sale. The bondholders interfered, and the sale has been postponed from time to time until to-day, when it took place at the Capital in this city. At two o'clock Comptroller Cook announced the conditions—a certain small per cent down in cash, and the remainder in two separate instalments. "Gentlemen," said the Comptroller, "how much will you give for the Hudson and Berkshire Railroad?" How much? "One hundred and fifty thousand dollars," said George H. Powers, of Hudson. "One hundred and fifty thousand," echoed the Comptroller. "Who says more?" "I do," said E. H. Chapin, of Albany. "How much?" "One hundred and fifty thousand," exclaimed the Comptroller. "Is that not a small amount for a whole railroad?" asked that officer. "Gentlemen, if you are done bidding, I shall sell for that amount—it is sold."

There were some twenty persons present, but those were the only two bids made. The amount sold for is

From Albany.—SALE OF THE HUDSON AND BERKSHIRE RAILROAD. ALBANY, Nov. 21, 1854. In days past, when the Legislative and financial officers of our State government tendered the credit of the State to rickety railway companies, the Hudson and Berkshire road, some thirty miles in extent, was supplied with one hundred and fifty thousand dollars of State bonds upon loan, the interest upon which was paid for a year or two. Then the road became so dilapidated that a new rail must be laid or the road abandoned. The Legislature was induced to surrender the State lien in order that two hundred thousand dollars might be borrowed in order to lay down a rail.

The interest upon those bonds was discontinued to be met some two years since, when Comptroller Wright, in accordance with vested power, advertised the road, together with all its appurtenances, for sale. The bondholders interfered, and the sale has been postponed from time to time until to-day, when it took place at the Capital in this city. At two o'clock Comptroller Cook announced the conditions—a certain small per cent down in cash, and the remainder in two separate instalments. "Gentlemen," said the Comptroller, "how much will you give for the Hudson and Berkshire Railroad?" How much? "One hundred and fifty thousand dollars," said George H. Powers, of Hudson. "One hundred and fifty thousand," echoed the Comptroller. "Who says more?" "I do," said E. H. Chapin, of Albany. "How much?" "One hundred and fifty thousand," exclaimed the Comptroller. "Is that not a small amount for a whole railroad?" asked that officer. "Gentlemen, if you are done bidding, I shall sell for that amount—it is sold."

There were some twenty persons present, but those were the only two bids made. The amount sold for is

From Albany.—SALE OF THE HUDSON AND BERKSHIRE RAILROAD. ALBANY, Nov. 21, 1854. In days past, when the Legislative and financial officers of our State government tendered the credit of the State to rickety railway companies, the Hudson and Berkshire road, some thirty miles in extent, was supplied with one hundred and fifty thousand dollars of State bonds upon loan, the interest upon which was paid for a year or two. Then the road became so dilapidated that a new rail must be laid