THE NEW YORK HERALD.

WHOLE NO. 6704. MORNING EDITION—WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1855. PRICE TWO CENTS.

ADVERTISEMENTS RENEWED EVERY DAY.

GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

GOLD SLEEVE BUTTONS OF ALL STYLES, FOR gentlemen, for sale very low, viz.:—

Gold and chased, pair	$2 50 to $12 00
Gold and engraved, pair	3 00 to 9 00
Gold and scroll, pair	4 50 to 8 00
Gold and enamel, pair	4 00 to 10 00
Gold and garnet, pair	6 50 to 9 50
Gold and mourning, pair	6 50 to 10 00
Gold and agate, pair	3 00 to 4 50
Gold and cornelian, pair	3 00 to 5 00

GEO. C. ALLEN, wholesale and retail, 11 Wall street, second floor,

GOLD VEST CHAINS:—

Gold curb vest chains	$9 00 to $45 00
Gold wove vest cains	10 00 to 28 00
Gold Adelaide vest chains	13 00 to 26 00
Gold Jenny Lind vest chains	13 00 to 45 00
Gold chased and plain vest chains	15 00 to 35 00
Gold hexagon vest chains	17 00 to 42 00
Gold Warsaw vest chains	10 00 to 36 00
Gold square vest chains	11 00 to 45 00
Gold engraved vest chains	16 00 to 36 00
Gold chased vest chains	24 00 to 56 00
Gold frosted vest chains	27 00 to 70 00

And other styles for sale at less than the usual prices, by G. C. ALLEN,
Importer of watches and jewelry, wholesale and retail, 11 Wall street, near Broadway, second floor.

HOLIDAY PRESENTS. — REDUCED PRICES.—Watches, Diamonds and Jewelry.—The subscriber is selling all descriptions of the following articles, at retail, much lower than any other house in the city:—

JULIUS' JURGENSEN WATCHES,	
Warranted perfect time keepers, from	$150 to $250
COOPER WATCHES,	
Duplex and levers, from	$125 to $275
INDEPENDENT SECOND	
And quarter Second Watches, for timing horses	$125 to $250
CHRONOMETERS,	
Splendid Gold Pocket Chronometers, perfect time keepers	$125 to $250
EIGHT DAY WATCHES,	
Which run eight days with one winding	$140 to $185
ENAMEL WATCHES	
For ladies, some in hunting cases	$35 to $100
DIAMOND WATCHES	
For ladies, some in magic cases	$55 to $300
MAGIC WATCHES,	
Which change into three different watches	$100 to $175
WATCHES WHICH WIND UP	
And turn the hands without a key	$85 to $140
ALL KINDS OF WATCHES AT LOW PRICES.	
Fine Gold Lepine Watches, four holes	$25
Fine Gold Detached Levers	30
Gold Enamelled Watches for the ladies	35
Gold English Patent Levers	35
Gold English Patent Levers, hunting case	50
Silver Patent Levers as low as	16
Silver Detached Levers as low as	14
Ladies' Gold Sets, Earrings, Pins and Bracelets	$15 to 75
Earrings, $2 to $25; pins, $2 to $25; Bracelets	5 00 to 80 00
Gold Lockets, one, two and four glasses	3 00 to 25 00
Gold Guard Chains	10 00 to 50 00
Gold Chatelaine Chains	10 00 to 110 00
Gold Vest Chains	80 00 to 85 00
Gold Fob Chains	6 00 to 25 00
Fine Gold Wedding Rings	3 50 to 7 00
Gold Guard Keys	1 00 to 5 00
Gold Fob Keys	2 00 to 6 00
Gold Fob Seals	3 00 to 12 00
Gold Thimbles	2 50 to 5 00
Gold Pencils	1 25 to 7 00
Gold pens and Pencils	3 50 to 16 00
Diamond Rings	7 00 to 250 00
Diamond Earrings	100 00 to 300 00
Diamond Pins	15 00 to 300 00
Gold Crosses	2 00 to 12 00
Gold Finger Rings, with stones	2 00 to 15 00
Gold Sleeve Buttons, per set	2 50 to 12 00
Gold Studs, per set	1 50 to 10 00
Gold Spectacles, per pair	5 00 to 9 00
Gold Eye Glasses	1 75 to 6 00
Silver Teaspoons, per set	5 00 to 9 00
Silver Tablespoons, per set	12 00 to 21 00
Silver Tableforks, per set	13 00 to 23 00
Silver Cups for children	5 00 to 15 00
Silver Napkin Rings, each	1 50 to 3 50
Gold Armlets for children, per pair	2 50 to 6 00
Plain Gold Rings	75 to 3 00
Chased Gold Rings	1 00 to 5 00
Silver Thimbles, silver tops	37
Gold Scarf Pins	1 00 to 7 00

GEORGE C. ALLEN, Importer,
Wholesale and retail, 11 Wall street,
second floor, near Broadway.

HOLIDAY PRESENTS.—FURS OF ALL NATIONS.—Fall fashions ready at BOOS & JACOBOWIZ'S, 397 Broadway, between Walker and White streets. The finest articles for holiday presents, at immensely reduced prices. Splendid stone marten sets, formerly sold at $50, are now to be had for $15. Rich sable mink for $15, and every article in proportion. Don't lose this opportunity.

TOYS AND FANCY GOODS FOR THE HOLIDAYS.—The undersigned has just received from his agents in Europe a complete and varied assortment of toys, for which he defies competition. Those who are desirous of making holiday presents will find it to their advantage to give him a call. Wholesale dealers will find here a very choice and beautiful selection of goods, suitable for the approaching holidays. The undersigned begs leave to invite his customers, and the public generally, to inspect his stock of toys and fancy goods, and most respectfully solicits a continuance of their patronage Remember the old stand, 18 Division street, near Chatham square. C. GOETZ (late Haas & Goetz.)

MUSICAL.

A BEAUTIFUL SEVEN OCTAVE $350 ROSEWOOD pianoforte is offered for $245, made to order, eight weeks since, by best city makers; superior tone, new style, case finished back, is perfect, with maker's full guarantee. It can be seen Monday and Tuesday at No. 8 College place, from 9 o'clock A. M. till 3. Wednesday and Thursday.

CASH MUSIC STORE—MUSIC AT HALF PRICE.—New York, January 1, 1855.—William Hall & Son, 239 Broadway, opposite the Park, have decided to reduce the price of their entire catalogue and stock of non-copyright music to an average of one-half its former prices. In order to afford this reduction, we are obliged to adopt the cash system; and we believe that our friends and the public generally will be even better served than heretofore, by a strict adherence to this principle. In regulating our prices, we have adopted our national currency, and have, as far as possible, made the prices in decimals. The price will be marked on every piece of music. The non-copyrights thus: "Reduced price, —— cents," and the copyrights thus: "Copyright, —— cents." All the non-copyright music printed previous to this arrangement will be sold at one-half the old prices. A similar reduction will be made in instruction books, &c. Since the study of music has become an essential branch of education, a reduction in the price of sheet music has been demanded by the public, and we have no doubt that the plan we have adopted will increase our sales sufficient to warrant us in carrying out our enterprise to its fullest extent. Our catalogue already contains the works of the best European authors, and we will continue to reprint such as may hereafter be published, all of which will be sold at less than one-half the prices of the foreign copies. We will continue the manufacture of pianofortes, guitars, flutes, &c., and also the importation of every article of musical merchandise, and will sell for cash only, at greatly reduced prices. Orders from any part of the country, enclosing the money, will be promptly and faithfully attended to. WM. HALL & SON,
239 Broadway, opposite the Park.

FOR SALE—AN EXCELLENT 6½ OCTAVE SECOND hand rosewood pianoforte; will be sold at a bargain if applied for immediately, at 34 Eldridge street, near Walker.

MUSICAL.—F. MEYER, (LATE PRINCIPAL BARITONE of the English opera) and lady, professors of piano, singing and guitar, 118 West Sixteenth street, between Sixth and Seventh avenues.

NINE PIANOFORTES, AND MUSIC THOROUGHLY taught.—Pianofortes tuned and to let, at $2, $3 and $4 a month, or for sale the cheapest in the city. Prof. DUMSDAY, 225 Grand street, near the Bowery.

SPLENDID MUSICAL PRESENTS.—JULLIEN'S ILLUMINATED dance music.—The Mario Schottische, with splendid portrait of Mario, (the only one in the country); the Borgia Valse—fine portrait of Grisi; the West Park Polka—splendidly illuminated; the Farewell Valse—magnificent portrait of Jullien; the Fireman's Quadrille—superb pictorial title; the Max Sutaine Polka—novel illustration. All the above were composed for special occasions, and bear Jullien's dedications and autograph. The set form a magnificent volume, and an appropriate present, being gems of dance music. JOHN DARCIE, New York, and all music sellers.

THE BANJO TAUGHT—IN SIX LESSONS.—LESSONS given every evening. Terms, $6 Professors S. B. & H. P. JACOBS, 407 Broadway.

THE BALL SEASON.

BALLS, CONCERTS, &c.—CONSTITUTION HALL, NO. 650 Broadway, between Bond and Bleecker streets, having been elegantly fitted up and furnished, embracing hall, supper, ladies' and gentlemen's dressing rooms, is now ready to be let for above purposes. Apply to JOHN J. MOTT, Agent, 650 Broadway, first floor.

THE TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL BALL FOR THE BENEfit of the New York Fire Department Fund, will take place at the Academy of Music, Fourteenth street, on Monday evening, Jan. 15, 1855. Tickets may be procured of the managers.

THE SECOND ANNUAL BALL OF THE UNITED German Guards will, in consequence of the destruction of the City Assembly Rooms by fire, take place at Tammany Hall, corner of Frankfort and Nassau streets, on the same evening, Thursday, January 4, 1855, and the same tickets will be taken at the door.
HERMAN SCHMIDT, Chairman.
FREDERICK KNEBEL, Treasurer.
JOHN DETMS, Secretary.

POST OFFICE NOTICES.

POST OFFICE, NEW YORK, DECEMBER 23, 1854.—There being dispute as to the circulation of papers claiming the advertisement by this office of uncalled-for letters, notice is hereby given that the Postmaster will receive evidence and decide upon the fact, under and pursuant to the regulations of the Post Office Department. A printed statement, for the information of persons desiring to compete for the advertisement, fixing and defining the limits and boundaries of the territory deemed by the Postmaster to be embraced within the range of the delivery of this office, the time within which evidence must be submitted, and the particulars of the evidence required, and blank affidavits in which every detail to be shown is properly and definitely embraced, will be furnished on application at this office.
ISAAC V. FOWLER, Postmaster.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

THIRTIETH THOUSAND OF "IDA MAY"—READY on Monday, January 1.
Upon the supposition that there are three readers for every book purchased, already seventy-five thousand persons have read this national story.
There are thousands yet to be enchained as they follow the heroine through her trials and triumphs. Although this book is in the form of a novel, who that reads it does not feel and know that its principal incidents are paralleled by well established facts. So true is it that "Truth is stranger than fiction." For sale by all booksellers. In one vol., large 12mo., cloth, $1 25. Agents wanted to sell this book throughout the country. Intending to remove during the present month to their new store, No. 13 Winter street, the publishers offer their immense stock of books at very low prices.
PHILLIPS, SAMPSON & CO., Publishers.
Boston, Jan. 1, 1855.

WE ADVISE ALL OUR READERS, WITHOUT EXception, to purchase the "Boston Olive Branch" for this week. We must confess that it has always been a favorite with us, and we would sooner lose our dinner any day than miss a single copy. This week's number contains a more than usual quantity of entertaining matter. We observe three excellent articles from the versatile pen of Mrs. Mary A. Denison, a "scorching review" of Fanny Fern's new book, and the beginning of a new and thrilling anti-Catholic novelette by its amiable and talented editress, Mrs. C. F. Gerry. A word to the wise is sufficient. DEXTER & BROTHER, 14 and 16 Ann street, are the agents.

COPARTNERSHIP NOTICES.

$5,000.—WANTED, AN INTEREST IN SOME respectable established dry goods business, where five thousand dollars in seasonable dry goods would be taken as capital; or would take an experienced young man as partner, who could advance from two to five thousand dollars, either in stock or cash, and start anew. Please address Lincoln, Herald office. All communications strictly confidential.

$2,000.—A SMART YOUNG MAN WANTED in an office. He can either take half of the profits or have a salary of $500 to $1,000. Security for the money if required. This is a fine opportunity for a suitable person. Appoint an interview with J. M., Metropolitan Post Office.

$1,500.—TO INVEST IN BUSINESS.—Address C. D. A., Herald office.

A RARE CHANCE.—A PARTNER WANTED IN AN importing cash business, with a capital of from ten to fifteen thousand dollars. Notwithstanding the general stagnation of business, this establishment has done 25 per cent better this season than last year. The profits net yearly 50 per cent on the investment. None need apply but such as can give satisfaction as to moral character. For particulars, address No. 444 New York Tribune office.

COPARTNERSHIP NOTICE.—THE COPARTNERSHIP of the firm of Nathan & Doremus, jewellers, 397 Eighth avenue, was dissolved by mutual consent on and after the 30th of December, 1854; and all outstanding debts are to be settled by L. Nathan, who has now full charge of the firm.
LOUIS NATHAN,
WM. C. DOREMUS.

COPARTNERSHIP NOTICE.—THE SUBSCRIBERS have this day formed a copartnership under the firm of A. L. Thorne & Co., for the transaction of the trimming and millinery jobbing business, at 42 John street.
ALEXANDER L. THORNE,
New York, Jan. 1, 1855. WILLIAM H. THORNE.

DISSOLUTION OF COPARTNERSHIP—THE UNDERsigned respectfully inform the public that they have this day mutually agreed to dissolve copartnership. The business will hereafter be carried on by Justin Raynal, who will settle all demands against the old firm at 86 Nassau street.
ADOLPHE VIENRICH,
JUSTIN RAYNAL.

NOTICE.—THE PARTNERSHIP HERETOFORE EXisting between John J. Blair and Michael Morgan, has this day, December the 29th, been dissolved by mutual consent. The business will be continued at the old stand by Michael Morgan, who is authorized to settle all claims against the firm.
JOHN J. BLAIR,
MICHAEL MORGAN.

THE COPARTNERSHIP HERETOFORE EXISTING BEtween the undersigned, expires this day by its own limitation.
JOHN L. ASPINWALL,
W. EDGAR HOWLAND,
SAML. W. COMSTOCK.
The business of Howland & Aspinwall will be continued from this date, by the undersigned, under the same firm.
JOHN L. ASPINWALL,
SAML. W. COMSTOCK,
January 1, 1855. MEREDITH HOWLAND.

WE HAVE THIS DAY TAKEN OUR BROTHERS, Robert O'Brien and Charles O'Brien, into copartnership. For the present, the business will be conducted as heretofore under the firm of
WILLIAM & JOHN O'BRIEN.
New York, January 1, 1855.

WANTED—TO FIND; A RELIABLE PERSON WHO can furnish from $6,000 to $8,000 in cash, to take about one half interest in a very respectable and very safe business, which will pay a very heavy profit, and can be turned over five or six times in a year, at least. For particulars and an interview, address E. F. G., Times office.

REWARDS.

$5,000 REWARD.—THE PRESIDENT OF THE New York and New Haven Railroad Company will pay the above reward to such party or parties as shall procure the arrest, and safe delivery into the custody of the proper officers, in the city of New York, the fugitive from justice, Robert Schuyler, charged with the crimes of fraud and forgery; and a suitable reward will be paid for any information leading to a knowledge of the place where said fugitive may be secreted, or to his criminal practices relative to said company, &c. By order of the Board of Directors.
No. 1 Hanover street, New York, Jan. 3, 1855.
PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FUGITIVE.—Height, 5 10 inches; weight, about 140 lbs.; about fifty-eight years of age, hair reddish brown, square shoulders, long arms, long fingers, large ears, person skeletony; eyes sunken, color dark blue, whites yellow, cheek bones prominent, straight nose, sharp countenance, sallow face; long natural teeth, coughs much on exertion, rather feeble, with a haggard look.

$200 REWARD.—ON THE NIGHT OF THE 26th inst. the house No. 33 West Nineteenth street, was forcibly entered and the following articles stolen therefrom:—

One silver coffee pot, marked F, in old English.	
One silver teapot, marked F,	do.
One silver sugar dish, marked F,	do.
Two cream pitchers, marked F,	do.
One slop bowl, marked F,	do.
One silver cheese scoop, marked F,	do.
Two round silver salt cellars, gold inside, no mark.	
Two silver salt spoons, no mark.	
1½ dozen silver teaspoons, marked Fisher.	
Half doz. silver dinner forks,	do.
Eight breakfast forks,	do.
One soup ladle,	do.
One gravy ladle,	do.
One sugar sifter,	do.
One sugar tongs,	do.
One butter knife,	do.

One tablespoon, dessert spoon, fork and knife, marked J. B. F. from H. B. B.; five napkin rings, marked J. G F., S. A. F., J. B. F., Mary Agnes, Clara.
One fork and spoon marked C. A. F., in old English.
The above reward ($200) will be given for the recovery of said property and detection of the thief.
Apply to D. FISHER, 544 Pearl street.

$50 REWARD—WILL BE PAID TO ANY ONE WHO will return to John F. Driggs, 124 Amity street, or 222 Spring street, the Cuna mortgage and two notes, taken from the dining room of the Astor House on the 11th instant, and no questions will be asked.

$25 REWARD WILL BE GIVEN TO ANY PERSON who will give information which will lead to the detection of the person or persons who stole the following articles from the premises of Wm. Simpson, 116 Prince street, on Sunday afternoon, December 31, while the family were at church:—1 lady's gold watch, chain, slide and key, made by M. J. Tobias, with gold dial; 2 gold breastpins; 1 hair bracelet, with gold ketch marked M. S.; 2 gold pencils; 2 $20 gold pieces; 1 pair of gold earrings representing an ear of corn; 1 gold fingerring, with a yellow stone; 1 mourning ring, set with black jet and hair. Valued at $165. WM. SIMPSON.

$25 REWARD.—LOST BY OR STOLEN FROM A lady, on Tuesday afternoon, in crossing Catherine ferry, a gold hunting lepine watch with chain and charms attached, enamelled cases, gold cap. &c., No. 6,897. Pawnbrokers and others are requested to stop the same if offered. The above reward will be paid and no questions asked, by returning the same to 84 and 86 Pearl street.

$5 REWARD.—LOST, ON SATURDAY MORNING, IN going from Gurney's, 349 Broadway to Lispenard street, a mink marten victorine. Whoever will return the same to 112 Ninth street, will receive the above reward.

$5 REWARD.—LOST, BETWEEN SATURDAY AND Wednesday last, a pair of gold spectacles, in a black leather case. The finder will receive the above reward and the thanks of the owner by leaving the same with John Vanderbilt, No. 7 Beaver street.

NEW YEAR'S DAY IN THE METROPOLIS.

HOW IT WAS CELEBRATED.

THE NEW CITY GOVERNMENT.

MAYOR WOOD'S MESSAGE.

&c., &c., &c.

The old and time-honored custom handed down to us by our Dutch ancestors was observed yesterday by all classes with as much, if not more, zest than in former years. The bounteous hospitality which always characterizes the occasion did not appear to have suffered any diminution in consequence of the hard times. Every one appeared to be in the best of humor with himself and all the rest of the world, and as for the prevailing tightness in the money market, it was forgotten for the day at least, or buried in the same grave with the unpleasant thoughts of the dead year. To say that the tables groaned with good things, would be but a repetition of an old truism; but the imperative commands of justice require its repetition, and we therefore say that "the tables groaned with good things." The weather was all that could be desired—so said every person, and what every person said must be true. In fact, there was nothing to find fault with, if we except the sidewalks, some portions of which appeared to be rather slippery about nightfall, if we may judge from the difficulty which a few pedestrians experienced in preserving their perpendicular. The uncharitable might entertain another opinion of the matter, but there is no doubt that the reason we have assigned for it is the correct one. Old associations were renewed, and those who had failed in the fulfilment of the obligations of friendship, mutually pledged themselves to a more strict observance of them in future. The calls commenced about nine o'clock in the morning, and were tinued till ten or eleven, but the festivities of the day were kept up till a somewhat later hour. The streets were crowded as usual with visiting parties, some calling in crowds of from six to twenty, while a few of a less gregarious nature preferred to go alone. The boys particularly seemed to enjoy themselves, and although their natural love of the ridiculous led them to make occasional reflections on the elegant and graceful Shanghae coats, they were treated with a good-natured toleration, and even the wearers regarded their remarks as excusable pleasantries. Among the turn-outs there were none that attracted more attention than the express wagons, which were crowded with the employés of the different companies. Some of these had as many as six and eight horses, which were decorated with head-dresses of waving plumes and other gay trappings. Carriages, buggies, &c., were also in demand, but we should think less than last year, as the weather was more favorable for walking. The city wore a happy, cheerful appearance, both in-doors and out. The ladies never looked more beautiful—a fact they were frequently reminded of during the day by their visiters, as they certainly never appear to better advantage than when dispensing the hospitalities of such an occasion.

We regret to say that in some parts of the city a few rather unpleasant scenes were enacted, which served to mar the general rejoicing, and a wife was murdered by her husband while in a state of intoxication. There were also some accidents, but we believe they were not of a very serious nature.

In the general hilarity the inmates of our public institutions were not forgotten. At Randall's Island the children were treated to a good dinner, something rather better than the usual soup and bread given them. After which Mr. Yale exhibited a model of Mount Vernon, the home of Washington, at which the children expressed great delight.

On Ward's Island also the day was appropriately spent in feasting and other equally interesting exercises. For this purpose the Board of Education at their last meeting had appropriated $125. Several of the Commissioners were on the Island superintending the festivities.

The Mayor's office was crowded, and at one time there were not less than six thousand persons around the City Hall. The new Mayor—Mr. Wood—the Chief of Police, and a large number of officials were present, and yesterday being also the first Monday of the year, as well as New Year's Day, all the members of the new city government were sworn in. While this ceremony was going on inside, the appearance of things outside was somewhat different. The steps of the Hall and the open space in front were thronged with a motley gathering. Some were listening to John Paul and other itinerant speakers declaiming with great energy on the hard times and other unpleasant topics, while crowds of ragged little urchins were shouting and screaming, as if vieing with the speakers in making as much noise and confusion as possible.

THE INAUGURATION OF THE NEW CITY GOVERNMENT.

THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

At 12 M. the new City Government was inaugurated into office with more than the usual ceremonies observed on such occasions. A procession was formed consisting of the reserved corps of the police department, led by the chief, and followed by the candidates about to be installed into office. On arriving at the Mayor's office, Jacob A. Westervelt, the retiring Mayor, tendered to his successor, Fernando Wood, the oath of office, as follows:—

I, Fernando Wood, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New York, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Mayor of the city of New York according to the best of my ability.

The procession reformed after the administration of the foregoing oath, and visited the Boards of Aldermen and Councilmen, where the same ceremony was performed. In the chamber of the latter Board, the Assessors and other city officers were sworn in, the County Clerk administering the oath about the same time to the Heads of Department.

Both Boards were then organized in accordance with the requirements of the law. Alderman Kelly was appointed President of the temporary organization in the Board of Aldermen, after which an election for permanent President for the year was held, with the following result, after four ballots:—

N. C. Ely	10	10	10	9
J. W. Brown	8	8	8	1
I. O. Barker	4	4	4	12

On the announcement of the last ballot, the chair was taken by Mr. Barker, who addressed the Board as follows:—

GENTLEMEN OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN—I tender you my sincere thanks for the honor bestowed on me, in electing me President of your Board. For this mark of your esteem and confidence it shall be my aim to merit your approbation, by exerting my best endeavors to discharge, in a faithful and impartial manner, the duties of the office. It will be my object, with your kind assistance, to carry into full effect such rules of proceedings as you may establish for the preservation of order and decorum and the due despatch of business. Having been called to this station by the complimentary will of a majority of this Board, testified in votes, proceeding, I believe, from members of the different political parties of which we are composed, I feel more sensibly the honor conferred upon me, and am induced to believe that, in all the important matters which will be submitted to our consideration, mere party influences will not be permitted to interfere with the public interests. Gentlemen, our Board forms the first branch of the Common Council of this great metropolis, which has attained so high a position among the cities of the world. Let it be our pride still further to elevate her commercial and mechanical interests, and add to her general prosperity and happiness. The legislation required for the varied interests of this city, and intrusted to its Common Council, affects a population larger than that of several States of our Union, and largely exceeding many of them in the magnitude of its financial and commercial relations. It touches our citizens more closely, and in more various bearings, than the legislation of the State or general government. To these matters, however, it is no part of my duty to call your attention in detail. From the message of his Honor the Mayor, and the reports of the different members of the Executive Departments, which will be presented to us, we will learn more fully the great responsibility resting upon us, and from my knowledge of its members I feel safe in declaring that this Board will faithfully execute the trust reposed in them by their fellow citizens.

Gentlemen, allow me to ask your aid in the performance of my duty as your presiding officer, assuring you that strict impartiality shall govern me while I preside over this Board.

At the conclusion of this address, a motion was made by Alderman Ely, that a committee of two be appointed to wait upon the Mayor, and receive any communication which he might have to make.

The motion was passed, and Aldermen Ely and Brown, were appointed on that mission. During their absence on motion of Alderman Howard, the clerks of last Board were continued in office for the year. Alderman Voorhis then moved that another Committee be appointed to inform the Board of Councilmen, that the Board of Aldermen was organized. The motion was passed and Aldermen Voorhis and Howard were appointed. In the meantime the first committee returned with the following message from the Mayor, which was read in regular form to the Board:—

THE MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

TO THE HON THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK:—

GENTLEMEN—In assuming the duties of chief magistrate of this great city I am conscious of its responsibilities and requirements. I shall endeavor to supply my want of experience and knowledge by an entire devotion to the public interests, and hope, by a faithful discharge of my official trusts, to meet the approbation and receive the support of your honorable body and my fellow citizens.

The present is not an auspicious time to commence a new administration; it is beyond the ability of any man exercising the duties of this office under the city charter, to give this people that government which appears to be so generally expected, and which is certainly so much required.

However we may differ as to the cause, there can be no doubt of a pervading dissatisfaction with the municipal affairs of this city; that this feeling exists, and that there are sufficient grounds for it, all must admit; whether it arises from defects in the fundamental laws, or from improper local legislation, or from maladministration upon the part of those entrusted with the executive duties, are questions upon which there is diversity of opinion; in my judgment all of these are the causes.

The amended charter of 1830 was preferable to the present system. Admitting that it required modification, the subsequent amendments have but increased the difficulties.

The allegation that it was inadequate to the increased size and wants of the city, was, in my opinion, entirely without foundation.

The constitution of the United States is as applicable to the present greatness of the republic as it was to the federal Union at the time of its adoption. Had amendments been made to it at the instance of every party or statesman who deemed it insufficient, we should have fallen to the same condition as a nation that this city has as a corporation.

The mistake in disturbing the charter of 1830 was not only in the alterations effected, but also in the introduction of an uneasy spirit in the people, who, by continual application to State legislation, have been taught to look to foreign remedies for domestic abuses.

Thus have we transferred to Albany much that could have been better cared for among ourselves; forgetting the old republican maxim, that no power should be delegated which can be exercised by the people themselves. This principle should never be forgotten. It was faithfully adhered to by the framers of the national constitution. In all countries and in all ages the utmost caution has been observed in granting to representatives the right of even ordinary legislation.

We should not present the first instance in which a people voluntarily surrenders the power to form the organic laws yielding, that highest of all prerogatives, to men who owe us no responsibility, are not chosen by our suffrages, who are foreign to our interests, do not understand our wants, and who, consequently, are liable to become the tools of designing men, having selfish or corrupt objects of their own to obtain.

Amendments to the charter of 1830 have, one after another, been adopted at Albany, until now, we are administering the government by portions of six different charters, which create nine executive departments, having undefined, doubtful, and conflicting powers, with heads elected by the people, each assuming to be sovereign, and independent of the others, of the Mayor, or of any other authority; and beyond the reach of any, except that of impeachment by the Common Council, which never has been, and probably never will be, exercised.

This irresponsibility has been productive of carelessness in expenditure, and negligence in the execution of the ordinances.

Thus, in the attempts to remedy defects by foreign aid, which could have been accomplished at home, we have fastened upon ourselves a complicated, many-headed, ill-shaped and uncontrollable monster, which has not, in my opinion, developed its worst characteristics.

So far as my duties are defined I feel some embarrassment. Even co-ordinate powers with the several executive departments are denied to me in some quarters; and the fact that my predecessors, under the new charters, have not attempted their exercise is relied upon as sustaining this position.

Without desiring to question the wisdom of those who have preceded me in this office, I must be permitted to construe my powers and duties as I understand them. Restricted as the prerogatives of the Mayor have been by almost every legislative act appertaining to the government of this city, for several years, still there is sufficient left to instil more energy into the administration than now exists, and to hold at least a supervisory check over the whole city government.

It is true, that though ostensibly head of the Police Department, he is not so practically, in the essential elements of authority—that of controlling the retention or removal of his own subordinates. The Chief of Police holds his place independent of the Mayor, that officer having been appointed during good behavior," by the late Mayor and Board of Commissioners, under the law of 1853, which they construed to give that authority. He cannot, *solus*, appoint or remove the humblest subordinate in the service, or make the rules and regulations for its governance. Of these requisites of power, so necessary to make an efficient police corps, he is by law deprived. Discipline can only be obtained and maintained by the firm hand of unrestricted power; besides, it is wrong in principle to make any public officer responsible for the acts of subordinates, who are placed beyond his individual power to remove.

These are some of the evils arising from the frequent application to State legislation for this city. Instead of a simple form of government, easily understood, the power of its officers so well defined, that there could be no conflict or misunderstanding, we have one full of the objections referred to.

It is not my purpose, at this time, to indicate a substitute, though I cannot omit to add my belief that the most perfect form of government, was that adopted by the framers of the federal constitution. Its clear and simple provisions are equally applicable to municipal corporations, or to a nation of a hundred millions. The Mayor should be to the city what the President is to the general government. There should be corresponding executive departments, with heads selected by the Mayor, (subject to the confirmation of the Board of Aldermen,) who should have entire control, and be, himself, responsible to the people. The Mayor and heads of departments should meet in council, and have a general uniformity of action and co-operation with each other, in carrying out the laws and preserving the general interests of the city. Over the whole should govern the chief magistrate; he should have the one-man power, which history teaches is the least dangerous and the most positive for good.

Certainly we have suffered more from legislative assumptions, or misconduct of subordinates in authority, than from the tyranny or corruption of a chief ruler.

Precedent shows there is safety in the latter, not only in the exercise of authority for the public weal, but as a barrier against the wrong doings of the former. The stronger the head the more healthy the body; but if strength is taken away by diverting it to a multitude of heads, the whole becomes enervated and unable to discharge its functions.

Concentration, with ample power, ensures efficiency, because it creates one high responsible authority. Decentralization is subversive of all good executive government.

This want of concentration has been the prime cause of the immense load of taxation which we now bear. To compare the relative taxation per individual, under the charter of 1830, and that now existing, will prove this assertion.

In 1843 the amount raised by tax for the support of the city government was one million seven hundred and forty-seven thousand five hundred and sixteen dollars and fifty-nine cents; whereas, in 1853, it was five millions sixty-seven thousand two hundred and seventy-five dollars and sixty-nine cents, and this year it is nearly six millions;—a startling increase. Need you be told that this addition of two hundred and fifty per centum is the result of either corruption or wasteful extravagance, the natural consequence of irresponsibility?

And here let me diverge to remark that to tolerate profligate outlays of the public money, whilst nearly one-tenth of our whole population are in want of the necessaries of life, is as shocking to humanity as it is injustice to a large and valuable class of our suffering fellow-citizens.

Surely we are admonished, that if this rate of taxation be continued, more of it should be devoted to the relief of the poor, whose industry bears most of its burthens, and who are now ringing into our ears their cries of distress. Labor was never so depressed as now. Employment is almost entirely cut off, and if procured, its remuneration is totally inadequate, owing to the high price of articles of subsistence. The prices of labor and of food bear no relative equality.

In ordinary times of general prosperity capital possesses advantages over labor.

Capital can always protect itself, and it is only at periods of inflation, when capital is directed to speculation in the products of labor, that the operative is appreciated, and his industry rewarded by competent compensation.

But now, when capital either timidly retreats, through fear, to the bank vaults, or is diverted to the oppression, for gain, of those who employ labor, his condition is sad enough. Does it not behoove us not only individually, but in our corporate capacity, to throw ourselves boldly forward to his relief?

This is the time to remember the poor.

Do we not owe industry everything? It is its products that have built up this great city.

Do not let us be ungrateful as well as inhumane. Do not let it be said that labor, which produces everything, gets nothing, and dies of hunger in our midst, whilst capital, which produces nothing, gets everything, and pampers in luxury and plenty.

It is our duty to take and administer this government under the charters and laws as we find them, until a change is effected for the better. Valuable improvements can now be made, notwithstanding these objections to the system. All the evils of which the people complain are not chargeable to wrong legislation. If the Common Council will be more cautious in the passage of ordinances, especially those involving disbursements of money, holding fast to the purse-strings as against the harpies, who for many years have hovered around its chambers, and if the executive bureau will co-operate with me in the rigid enforcement of the laws, and particularly in restraining expense, and exacting a faithful performance of every contract, we may do much towards removing the present discontent.

Most assuredly the people pay enough for the better administration of their public affairs; and it has never appeared to me that they were unreasonable in their requirements.

They ask public order—the suppression of crime and vice—clean streets—the removal of nuisances and abolition of abuses—a restriction of taxation to the absolute wants of an economically administered government, and a prompt execution of the laws and ordinances. Let us endeavor to meet their expectations.

For myself, I desire to announce, here upon the threshold, that, as I understand and comprehend my duties and prerogatives, they leave me no alternative, without dishonor, but to assume a general control over the whole city government, so far as protecting its municipal interests may demand it. I shall not hesitate to exercise even doubtful powers, when the honor or interests of the public is abused.

The public good will be sufficient warrant to insure my action. Under this law I shall proceed, not doubting your concurrence and the support of the people for whom the responsibility is assumed.

I have purposely omitted, in this communication, the usual recommendations and references to the affairs of the city. There are many prominent topics to which I will allude in another communication, to be made as soon as your body is organized and ready for business. I shall then make recommendations, which, if carried out, will reform many abuses, reduce the expenditure, and increase the revenue, without increased taxation. In the mean time, the usual annual reports will be made from the several departments, to which I ask your special attention.

With a hearty desire that, in our separate spheres, we may conduct the affairs of the city so as to merit a continuance of its greatness, and with confidence in the ability and devotion to the popular will which influence the several members of your honorable body, I commend its deliberations to the protection of that All-wise Providence, which will, no doubt, so conduct its councils as to insure the prosperity and well-being of the whole community. FERNANDO WOOD.

January 1, 1855.

THE BOARD OF COUNCILMEN.

After the members were sworn in by the new Mayor, Daniel D. Conover, of the Fifty-third district, was elected President by the following vote on the first ballot:—

D. D. Conover	32
F. E. Mather	20
W. M. Vermilye	4

They then proceeded to ballot for officers, when C. T. McClenachan, the former clerk, was unanimously re-elected, as was also Nicholas Slidell, the Sergeant-at-Arms.

The other officers will be elected at the next meeting.

A WOMAN BEATEN TO DEATH BY HER HUSBAND.

On Monday night, about 7 o'clock, the inhabitants of the tenement house No. 32 Trinity place, were thrown into a great state of excitement by the screams of a woman in the basement of the house, as if some one was murdering her; and on instituting a search, they found that a man named Thomas Hammond had beaten his wife Eliza to death. On entering the room occupied by these persons, his wife was found lying dead on the floor, with her head and body covered with blood. The police were instantly sent for, and officers Dreyer and —— at once proceeded to the scene of the murder, and arrested Hammond, who was taken to the Tombs to await the Coroner's inquest. A little son of Hammond's, about six years of age, was the only witness of the shocking affair. He says that his father, being intoxicated at the time, commenced to beat the deceased about 6 o'clock, and continued inflicting injuries upon her with his hands and feet until he had killed her. On examining the head of the unfortunate woman, a large hole was found in her temple, produced by her falling against the edge of the stove. The body of the deceased presented a shocking spectacle, it being bruised and crushed and covered with blood, so as to render recognition at first sight almost impossible.

Yesterday afternoon Coroner O'Donnell proceeded to the scene of the murder in Trinity place, for the purpose of holding an inquisition, but from the non-attendance of witnesses, he was obliged to adjourn the case until 10 o'clock this morning. Last evening the deputy coroner, Dr. O'Hanlin, aided by officers Chisholm and O'Donohue, of the First ward police, succeeded in arresting Thomas Malone, the principal witness in the case. Malone, it is said, was in the room of Hammond when he beat his wife to death, and can, therefore, give very important information as to the circumstances attending the shocking murder. Drs. Uhl and Whitjee made a post mortem examination of the body of the deceased during yesterday, and we are informed by them that the deceased had received severe internal as well as external injuries, quite sufficient to have caused death. The prisoner Hammond has been employed as a