

NEW YORK HERALD.

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Volume XX. No. 4 AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE. Broadway—BEGGAR'S OPERA—LUCKY HIT—IRISH TUTOR. BOWERY THEATRE. Bowery—PUTNAM—BLACK EYE BURN—NATURE AND PHILOSOPHY.

New York, Friday, January 5, 1855.

Mails for the Pacific.

THE NEW YORK HERALD—CALIFORNIA EDITION. The United States mail steamship George Law, Capt. G. V. Fox, will leave this port this afternoon at two o'clock, for Aspinwall.

The News.

In the United States Senate yesterday, the bill extending the California Land Commission was taken up and passed. The consideration of the Bounty Land bill was then resumed.

In the House of Representatives, a petition was presented by Mr. Wheeler, from the merchants and shipowners of New York, in reference to floating lights at the mouth of that harbor, which was referred to the Committee on Commerce.

In the New York State Senate yesterday, Mr. Putnam introduced a bill relative to conveyances of property for religious purposes, the object of which is evidently to prevent Catholic Bishops from receiving presents or donations of property.

In our Albany correspondence, under the telegraphic head, will be found the bill introduced by Mr. Putnam in the Senate yesterday, relative to conveyances of property for religious purposes.

We publish in another part of to-day's paper a full report of the proceedings of the last two meetings of the mixed commission, now sitting in London, for the adjustment of Anglo-American claims.

It will be seen that Mr. Alexander McLeod has preferred a claim against the United States government for compensation to the extent of \$5,000, for the sufferings and losses sustained by him during his imprisonment and prosecution in this country, on the charge of being concerned in the attack on the Caroline.

Mr. Clark thinks the usury laws should not be repealed. To us it has always appeared odd that people should have been found to clamor for their legislative repeal; so completely and thoroughly have they been nullified in practice.

It will be seen that a Committee of the Common Council of Albany have passed resolutions forbidding the visits of teachers of the Roman Catholic Church to the Almshouse of that city, until ample apology has been made for the destruction of the little books recently presented to the inmates of that institution.

The Matine Legislative met at Augusta, on Wednesday morning. Franklin Muzny was elected President of the Senate, and Sidney Perham Speaker of the House.

The hard and soft shell committees held their first meetings last night to effect their permanent organizations for the ensuing year. The softs were quite harmonious, but the hard, as will be seen from the report, do not appear to have settled their difficulties yet.

The large quantity of 18,000 bales of cotton cleared from the port of New Orleans, on Thursday, 28th ult.

The annual address before the Geographical and Statistical Society was delivered last night by Rev. Dr. Hawkes, in the chapel of the University.

An account of the meeting of the Board of Managers of the "Ladies' Ball for the Relief of the Poor," held at the St. Nicholas last evening, will be found in our paper this morning.

The committee appointed by the Corn Exchange to distribute the charitable fund, reported in favor of giving one-fifth to Brooklyn and the remaining four-fifths to New York.

The meeting which was to have been held in the Tabernacle last evening, to devise means for the permanent relief of the poor, was postponed until Friday evening, the 12th inst. Want of speakers we understand was the cause.

The Court of General Sessions was to have been opened yesterday morning by Judge Stuart, but owing to the incomplete condition of the rooms, the Court was further adjourned until Monday next.

Flour yesterday was 1 1/2 cents per barrel lower for common grades; fancy and extras were steady at previous rates. Southern and Canadian white wheat—the latter in bond—sold at \$2 20. Indian corn was unchanged, with pretty active demand.

Governor Clark on Wall Street.

Mr. Seward has paid off old scores by the passages in Governor Clark's message which refer to the usury laws and to the Brokers' Board in Wall street. It has long been notorious that a bitterly hostile feeling existed between the honorable Senator and the commercial community of New York; a feeling which took its rise when Mr. Seward gave his sanction to the socialist doctrines of a certain wing of his party, and which subsequent events have largely contributed to strengthen.

It does not seem likely that the merchants of New York will be utterly ruined and demolished by the onslaught. Governor Clark thinks the Board of Brokers a wicked establishment, composed of naughty men, who sell and buy stocks on time and thereby corrupt the public morals; and suggests that they should be put down with a strong hand.

Patent Legislation.—We have not heard much this session of Congress of the renewal of the patent monopoly legislation of the last. For all that we know, the leading members of the lobby corps, as detailed in the Letcher committee reports of the last session, may be on hand at Washington, headed by Mr. Dickerson, with their kid gloves, oyster suppers, revolvers and pin money; but the reporters and newspaper correspondents are uncommonly quiet.

Very extraordinary, we think it, that in opposition to Forney's interests, the President should have declined this session to recommend any railroad land grants or patent monopoly legislation. Marcy is, perhaps, at the bottom of this. In any event, Mr. Pierce seems to have discovered, since the last session, that in this special legislation for the benefit of rich railroad land speculating and patent monopolies to the prejudice of the whole community, there is something decidedly anti-democratic and unpopular, or something too rotten and corrupt to stand by.

Statistics of W. H. Seward's Political Plantation.—We have secured the following statistics of the political plantation of W. H. Seward, as at present conducted. They are very curious: Chief Accounting and Managing Steward of the Estate—Thurlow Weed.

Confidential Clerk—Henry J. Raymond. Principal Slave Driver of the White Niggers—Horace Greeley. Discarded Overseers—N. Y. Courier and Enquirer and N. Y. Express.

Regular Gangs of White Political Niggers—The free soil remains of the late whig party. Hired Gang—The Utica outside Know Nothings, and the pliable liquor members of the Assembly.

A Tariff Carcus—A Fizzle.—The census of some fifty or sixty administration men, of both houses, at Washington, the other night, upon the subject of a reduction of the duties upon imports, was a fizzle.

The St. Nicholas Hotel on Saturday evening last was the scene of one of the most remarkable events that ever transpired during the existence of the New York Herald. Inasmuch as the affair is interesting to every reader of the Herald we will give a description of it.

While the Editor of the Herald was quietly enjoying a book, in his parlor, at the Saint Nicholas, on the evening of the 30th December, he was interrupted by a knock at the door. It proved to be occasioned by John Thomas, who had "two letters for Mr. Bennett."

Another consultation was had, and a small clue to the mystery was found. One of the servants thought that the carman said he was from Ball, Black & Co.'s. This was not testimony enough, being only hearsay evidence, and rather weak at that.

Forney is busy in these Buchanan movements; but of all men in the Cabinet or Kitchen Cabinet, Forney is the fellow to "make hay while the sun shines." He is an active conspirator for the succession; but in the meantime he is feathering his nest most gloriously. What with Congressional books, buying and selling; and what with Colt's pistols, Wisconsin railroads, Kansas lands, and other odds and ends picked up as Clerk of the House, manager of the Cabinet organs, and chief of the Kitchen, he is every thing for himself, including all that he can make out of his friends.

A good hearty laugh all round, and a glass of wine with Mr. Treadwell, settled the matter—no wonder Mr. Black thought it a good joke. This service of plate is one of the most magnificent, massive, and elegant, that has ever been manufactured in Ball, Black & Co.'s establishment.

The service includes ten pieces, enclosed in a rich brass mounted mahogany chest. The following is an enumeration of the articles—the value of the whole is about fifteen hundred dollars: 1 Silver Salver, 28 inches long, 2 grape pattern Water Pitchers, 20 inches high.

The inscriptions are very neatly engraved and run thus: On the salver: PRESENTED TO JAMES GORDON BENNETT, OF THE METROPOLIS OF THE UNION.

On one of the water pitchers: PRESENTED TO JAMES GORDON BENNETT, AS A TESTIMONIAL OF HIS SUPPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION; THE OPPOSITION OF THE SPOILS SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT; THE REPLY AND EFFECTIVE ADVOCATE OF THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE. New York City, January, 1855.

On the other: PRESENTED TO JAMES GORDON BENNETT, FOR HIS UNWAVERING SUPPORT OF THE MECHANICS OF THE METROPOLIS OF THE UNION.

On the coffee urn: PRESENTED TO JAMES GORDON BENNETT, FOR THE VALUABLE ASSISTANCE HE HAS RENDERED TO THE COMMERCIAL INTERESTS OF THE REPUBLIC.

On the creamer: PRESENTED TO JAMES GORDON BENNETT, FOR THE TRUTHFUL REPORT HE HAS MADE OF AMERICAN INTERESTS ABROAD.

On the tea-pot: PRESENTED TO JAMES GORDON BENNETT, FOR HIS ABILITY AND FIDELITY IN SUPPORT OF THE COMPROMISE MEASURES OF 1850.

On the hot milk pitcher: PRESENTED TO JAMES GORDON BENNETT, FOR HIS ABILITY AND FIDELITY IN SUPPORT OF THE COMPROMISE MEASURES OF 1850.

On the hot water pitcher: PRESENTED TO JAMES GORDON BENNETT, FOR HIS ABILITY AND FIDELITY IN SUPPORT OF THE COMPROMISE MEASURES OF 1850.

On the slop basin: PRESENTED TO JAMES GORDON BENNETT, OF RIGHT AND JUSTICE.

This splendid testimonial comes from some of the merchants and mechanics of New York, as a tribute to the Herald, and their sentiments on the subject are expressed in the inscriptions. We have given above an exact account of its reception, and we are still in the dark as to the names of the donors.

We thank the donors of the above named testimonial for the splendid gift. It will be considered as part and parcel of the Herald establishment, and it will be handed down from generation to generation. It is "not for a day, but for all time."

Decay of Abolitionism in the North—Curtailment of the Anti-Slavery Newspaper Press.

Abolitionism in the North is in a state of decay—rapid decay. The present hard times have put it to the test, and it is sinking under the pressure. This fact has been strikingly illustrated within the last few months, in the curtailment of the daily anti-slavery journals, open and disguised, of this city—the last and most striking example among them being the cutting down of the Journal of Commerce to the extent of about one-third from its late ambitious but ruinous dimensions.

In this matter of curtailment the Tribune led the way, in a marked reduction of its size, and in the substitution of a cheap and inferior quality of paper in the place of a comparatively good and expensive article. Next, our junior Seward organ—the Times—adopted the same expedient of "making both ends meet."

Our hard-up contemporaries of the Journal of Commerce, with their issue of the first day of the new year, say that, "with the compliments of the season we present our sheet in a somewhat reduced form, though still large enough for convenience."

Here, then, are the facts: The Journal of Commerce, like the Tribune, Times, and Sun, succumbs to the pressure of the existing hard times, and "with the compliments of the season," presents its sheet, "in a somewhat reduced form."

Important revelations have just taken place that are well calculated to change the present political state of things in this city. A few hours before the exit of the old year the President had placed before him the living evidence of Cushing's treachery in the form of a letter written by the Attorney General to a personal friend in Pennsylvania, advisory of the secret movements now making towards the next Presidency.

The administration now admits the Ostend conference to have been its own off-putting; but Mr. Marcy declares that Soule was an interloper in the affair. The resolutions of inquiry were approved at the instance of the administration. Had they been adopted, the President would have been compelled, as Mr. Marcy says, to refuse the correspondence. This would have created distrust abroad and embarrassment at home.

The Committee of Ways and Means report a new tariff bill on Tuesday next. Cabinet squabbles for the succession—Cushing's treachery fastened upon him—lawful seizure in the White House—Forney's handling of the spoils—his interest in Colt's Patent—Central American scheme—George Law's muskets, &c.

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I shall not anticipate the result of all this, but the "scintillations" of the Cabinet, so much the subject of eulogy on the part of the Union organ, exist only in the ink which puts them forth to a supposed gullible people as a truth.

The President is becoming daily convinced of the insincerity of those about him. To Marcy and Dobbin he expresses himself as dissatisfied to hang on.

John W. Forney has possessed himself of over one hundred thousand dollars during his two years sojourn in this city. He has now a single bill in hand, which, if successful, will give him twenty thousand dollars in sanctity among his Wall street neighbors. In

ded, according to the testimony of Chevalier Watson Webb, who seems to have devoted some time and considerable research into the character of our hero, he is little better than a man whose testimony is good for nothing.

The evidence upon this point is furnished in almost every number of the Journal of Commerce. The clerk's desk of that establishment is the favorite depository for the relief of Southern slaves from the bondage of a master and labor upon compulsion. From day to day, the contributions to purchase the freedom of "the slave Harry," or "the slave Pompey," or some other slave, are paraded in the columns of the paper in question, with calls for further supplies to complete the manumission, and to give the pining applicant a taste of the blessings of free negro liberty in the North.

The effect of these publications in the South, among the blacks, may be readily divined. They excite dissatisfaction, the most delusive visions of Northern negro liberty and Northern generosity, and attempts on the part of deluded slaves to escape to the underground railroad, in the hope, at the last extremity, of exciting the sympathy of the Journal of Commerce, and a subscription to buy the freedom of the detected runaway.

Thus a single number of the Journal of Commerce, falling into the hands of a slave who can read, may infect the slaves of a half dozen plantations with its insidious poison. And we doubt not that this is more the real intent of Master Butler than the liberation of Harry or Pompey.

Certainly the conservative spirit of the North, in the present decay of abolitionism, has thought proper to classify the Journal of Commerce with the Tribune and Times as papers that may be most readily dispensed with under the existing depression. And the "sober second thought of the people" is seldom erroneous. The antecedents and proclivities of the Journal, and the other anti-slavery dailies that have come to a curtailment, are suffering from the same cause; and can only "expand" when the anti-slavery agitation shall again revive.

Meantime, while Southern men know that the Tribune is, let them be guarded against the insidious hypocrisy of the Journal of Commerce. It has changed its face to the Southward, but is still as warmly abolitionist at the bottom as when first established by Arthur Tappan.

NEW STYLE OF BUNCOMBE SPEECHES.—The democratic members of Congress are adopting a new style of Buncombe speeches—being nothing more nor less than regular set speeches against the principles and policy, organization and discipline of the Know Nothings, of which the learned speakers confess they know nothing.

They are fighting shadows—wasting their strength upon the empty air. It will avail nothing. The new party will go on, revolutionizing every State important to their purposes, until their work is done. They are in for a thorough-going revolution. But it is a great mistake to suppose that there is anything of slavish abolition, or of the alien and seditious laws in their real designs. Nothing of the sort. The Know Nothings, in a national view, are a great American popular party, rising up to abolish the corruptions of the old parties, and to clean out the filthy political stables at Washington from stem to stern. It is a great Union movement, and must finish its work. Nothing more is contemplated. Nothing less will do. Buncombe speeches against the Know Nothings are like whistling against the wind.

THE LATEST NEWS.

BY MAGNETIC AND PRINTING TELEGRAPHS.

Extraordinary News from Washington. THE MEDIATION PROJECT ABANDONED—MORE ABOUT THE OSTEND CONFERENCE—THE NEW TARIFF BILL.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4, 1855. The mediation resolutions will not be reported by the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as the President has anticipated them by once tendering to the belligerents the mediation of this government, which was promptly rejected. A report now would be humiliating.

The administration now admits the Ostend conference to have been its own off-putting; but Mr. Marcy declares that Soule was an interloper in the affair. The resolutions of inquiry were approved at the instance of the administration. Had they been adopted, the President would have been compelled, as Mr. Marcy says, to refuse the correspondence. This would have created distrust abroad and embarrassment at home.

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CABINET SQUABBLES FOR THE SUCCESSION—CUSHING'S TREACHERY FASTENED UPON HIM—LAWFUL SEIZURE IN THE WHITE HOUSE—FORNEY'S HANDLING OF THE SPOILS—HIS INTEREST IN COLT'S PATENT—CENTRAL AMERICAN SCHEME—GEORGE LAW'S MUSKETS, &c.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4, 1855. Important revelations have just taken place that are well calculated to change the present political state of things in this city.

A few hours before the exit of the old year the President had placed before him the living evidence of Cushing's treachery in the form of a letter written by the Attorney General to a personal friend in Pennsylvania, advisory of the secret movements now making towards the next Presidency. This letter—which, by the way, was the property of a distinguished lawyer elected at the recent canvass to a judgeship of great prominence in his native State—was sent by him in confidence to a member of the Senate for explanation, and through this channel, it finally fell into the President's hand.

I am sufficiently well informed to give you a few particulars in addition to the above. The letter, after a perusal, was pronounced by the President a forgery. Its genuineness was insisted upon, and to settle the matter, the President's compliments were sent to Mr. Cushing, expressing a wish to see him.

The Attorney General accompanied the messenger, and, upon entering the executive chamber, he found the President standing, and in conversation. The simple question "Is this your letter, Mr. Cushing?" was, after such hesitancy, replied to in the affirmative. Explanation was requested, but the self-coined response of "some other thing," for the moment, satisfied the subject.

In about an hour after this scene the name of Forney was announced. "An engaged; can't see him," was the significant reply. You will bear in mind that when this answer was given the President was alone in his chamber.

I can't give the verbatim character of this electioneering letter, but the most unjust aspersions were cast upon General Forney for his retention in the Cabinet of Marcy, and the inexpediency of mentioning his (Pierce's) name in connection with the next Presidency was clearly shown.

I shall not anticipate the result of all this, but the "scintillations" of the Cabinet, so much the subject of eulogy on the part of the Union organ, exist only in the ink which puts them forth to a supposed gullible people as a truth.

The President is becoming daily convinced of the insincerity of those about him. To Marcy and Dobbin he expresses himself as dissatisfied to hang on. John W. Forney has possessed himself of over one hundred thousand dollars during his two years sojourn in this city. He has now a single bill in hand, which, if successful, will give him twenty thousand dollars in sanctity among his Wall street neighbors. In