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PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR.

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Volume XX.....No. 5

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway—LUCKY HIT—THE BEGGAR'S OPERA—IRISH TUTOR.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery—IDIOT WITNESS—SON OF COLUMBIA—LAFITTE.

BURTON'S THEATRE, Chambers street—SOPHIA'S SUPPER—NICE YOUNG MAN—APOLLO IN NEW YORK.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway—TWO CAN PLAY AT THAT GAME—THE SISTERS—ARTFUL DODGER.

METROPOLITAN THEATRE, Broadway—RICHARD III—USED UP.

AMERICAN MUSEUM—Afternoon—THE WIFE. Evening—ROB ROY.

WOOD'S VARIETIES—Mechanics' Hall, 472 Broadway.

BUCKLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, 539 Broadway—BUCKLEY'S ETHIOPIAN OPERA TROUPE.

New York, Saturday, January 6, 1855.

The News.

By the arrival of the Asia's mails we are in possession of the full complement of her news, an outline of which we published on Thursday. The further details supplied by the European journals and by our regular correspondence will be read with interest. From the intense excitement which pervaded the public mind in England on the subject of the Foreign Enlistment bill, and the fierce opposition which it was encountering, both in and out of Parliament, it is evident that this unpopular measure will give the *coup de grace* to Lord Aberdeen's ministry. Nothing, in fact, but a threat of resignation on their part could have forced it through a second reading in the Commons. As it is, with the small majority by which it was likely to be carried, it is doubtful whether the government will venture to carry it into operation. If they do, a storm will be raised against them which it will be impossible for them to weather. The thanks of the British Parliament were unanimously voted to the French army and navy, and the compliment met with a gracious response in the columns of the *Moniteur*, which felicitates the nation on a fact so unprecedented in its history.

In France some alarm is manifested lest the Czar should hold out the hand to Mazzini and Kossuth in revenge for the desertion of his quondam ally, Austria; and the fact of the *Moniteur* seriously undertaking to disprove such an anticipation, shows that some uneasiness on the subject exists in high quarters.

In addition to the interesting items of news received through the ordinary sources of intelligence from Sebastopol, private letters received in Paris give a most unfavorable picture of the prospects of the siege. The Russians do not lose a point in the game of war, and are displaying the most extraordinary energy and activity in their efforts to defeat the advances of the besiegers. They have employed the time gained by the partial suspension of the siege operations in preparing such a reception for them as will render the issue of an assault extremely doubtful. One of these letters goes so far as to state that although the engineering works have arrived at a point which enables the allies to say that they can enter when they please, they dare not stir a foot in presence of the terrific obstacles which they will have to encounter.

From Madrid, we learn that Mr. Soulé had had a most important interview with M. Luzuriaga, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, in which the former exhibited a courtesy and a spirit of conciliation strikingly at variance with his previous tone and bearing towards the Saanish government. This new phase in our peppery minister's diplomatic conduct has set all the world wondering, and the Spanish official himself seems to have been greatly puzzled by it, as, in his reply to Mr. Soulé's professions of a desire to cultivate cordial relations with the government, he was extremely reserved and guarded. The details of the interview will be found in the letter of our London correspondent.

Gen. Sam Houston arrived in Washington yesterday. He is in good health and spirits, and reports that Know Nothingism is in the ascendant in Texas.

In the United States Senate yesterday, Mr. Sumner introduced a memorial, asking that the Secretary of the Navy be empowered to send one or more vessels to the relief of Dr. Kane. The Military Academy bill, for appropriations, was passed; after which the Judiciary Reform bill was taken up, and debated until the adjournment..

In the House of Representatives, the delegate from Nebraska appeared and took his seat. The memorial of the insurance and other associations of this city, asking for the fitting out of an expedition for the relief of Dr. Kane, was presented by Gen. Walbridge, and referred to the Committee on Commerce. The balance of the day was taken up with private bills, of which fourteen were passed.

In the State Senate yesterday, Mr. Brooks introduced a bill to provide for fraudulent over-issue of stocks, and to prevent persons from holding similar offices in more than one company. Notice was given of the introduction of bills in relation to excavations in New York city; to regulate the sales by the sheriff of New York, and to prohibit the New Haven Railroad Company from running their cars on the Harlem track. The bill intended to reach the property of non-residents doing business in the State, for taxation, was, in Committee of the Whole, ordered to a third reading, and the bill disfranchising persons giving or receiving money to influence suffrages, was debated until the close of the sitting.

In the Assembly, the report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction was received. Mr. O'Keefe presented a bill for the better protection of life in the erection of buildings in the city of New York. Notice was given of a bill for the security of passengers on steam ferry boats, and various others. The select committee on the prohibitory liquor law consists of Messrs. Leigh, May, C. P. Johnson, Dumont, Aiken, E. Miller, Masters and Searing.

The nominations of the Commissioner of Streets and Lamps were confirmed yesterday evening by the Board of Aldermen. The Board rescinded their former action as to their sittings, and resolved to meet on Monday and Thursday of each week. Aldermen Ely, Kelly and Christy were appointed a special committee to take into consideration the subject of extending Albany street through Trinity churchyard.

The Board of Councilmen were in session last evening, and numerous petitions, reports, &c., were received and appropriately disposed of. The petition and memorial of the unemployed workingmen, from the Board of Aldermen, was laid on the table. A communication from the Commissioner of Streets and Lamps, asking for an appropriation of $17,784, to defray the salaries of Street Inspectors, was received and referred. A resolution to stay all further proceedings in the matter of opening Albany street, was adopted.

The Board of Supervisors held the first meeting under their present construction last evening, and appointed the Mayor President of the Board for the year. His Honor briefly acknowledged the compliment.

The committee of unemployed workmen from the meeting held at Hope Chapel and the committee appointed by the Board of Councilmen, met yesterday afternoon in the Council chamber. The former, after some little debate, presented their petition and memorial, which will be found elsewhere in our paper to-day. The petition demands relief as a matter of right, and recommends that the five thousand building lots belonging to the city be improved by the erection of buildings thereon, and let to tenants at a just and equal rate. The petitioners think this would give employment to a large number of persons, and correct many of the evils with which the times are afflicted.

A fire occurred yesterday afternoon at the Prescott House, corner of Spring street and Broadway; it did not extend far before it was extinguished by the firemen. It is supposed to have originated in the kitchen furnace, as the burning was discovered between the laths and plaster. The case is under the Fire Marshal's investigation. A report of the fire will be found in another column.

A lecture on Turkey was delivered at Clinton Hall, by the Hon. George P. Marsh, last evening. A synopsis of the lecture will be found elsewhere.

The Coroner yesterday held an inquest on the body of William O'Brien, who was shot on New Year's day by Joseph Hall, in a grocery at the corner of Grand and Laurens streets. After a full investigation the jury returned a verdict that the deceased came to his death by being shot through the body by Joseph Hall, but express a doubt as to the sanity of Hall.

The correspondence between Mr. Belmont, our minister at the Hague, and Mr. Van Hall, together with the comments of the *Echo Universal*, are published elsewhere in our paper to-day. It will be found piquant and interesting.

Wm. D. Heiser, democrat, of Berks, was yesterday elected Speaker of the Senate of Pennsylvania, after twenty-seven ballotings.

Anson P. Morrill was yesterday elected Governor of Maine by the Legislature of that State. He received the unanimous vote of the Senate. His inauguration will take place to-day.

Hon. Ira Bellows, of Pittsford, died suddenly at Rochester, last evening, while waiting in the railroad depot. He had held many posts of honor in this State.

Two freight trains came in collision on the Camden and Amboy railroad, near Riverton, last evening. No one was injured, but the mail train was delayed by the obstruction, and the mail did not reach this city until half-past 1 o'clock this morning.

Common brands of State flour were again lower yesterday, and a sale of 2,000 bbls. was made at $8 87½, cash. Extra brands were unchanged. Upper Lake red wheat sold at $1 80. Indian corn was one cent a bushel higher; meal was also better. There was a heavy decline in old mess pork, with sales of about 3,000 bbls. which opened at $12 37 and closed at $11 87 a $12; prime sold at $12. Lard was firm. Beef and cut meats were unchanged. Cotton was active at the advance of a quarter of a cent a pound gained since the receipt of the America's news. The sales footed up about 2,500 bales.

Cause of the Revulsion—Its Effects.

Elsewhere will be found some mention of large failures at Boston and New Orleans. The epidemic is travelling over the whole country; no city of any note can expect to escape. All followed the example of New York when flush times began; all must now follow her as closely in adversity.

How simple and plain the whole story of our troubles to one who studies them with the light of plain common sense, and without the deceitful glare of theory! It all began with a few merchants who made money in 1843 and the following years, and undertook to live as they believed, "up to their means." Others followed when Californian gold added an apparent resource to the country; and very soon the practice became general in certain circles. One after another, the successful traders built fine houses in Fifth avenue, set up carriages, kept servants in livery, and spent vast sums in dinners and equipages. Not that they were accustomed to such things, or even knew how to use them; most of the possessors of this sudden splendor had learned to cypher in a country schoolhouse, or worn pinafores in a back parlor behind a small retail store. Neither hereditary luxury nor even stable resources could be urged as an excuse for such extravagance. The money was spent because it was unexpectedly made, and as fast as it was made. This was not the worst. Seeing his neighbor launch out, many a man, who had less reason for increasing his expenditure, resolved not to be outdone, and ran into debt in order to keep pace with him. Soon, the mania spreading, a desperate race of wastefulness began; long before it ended, every one, rich and poor alike, was busy mortgaging the future to sustain the present. As every one but a few "croakers" said that the flush times would last forever, and merchants' profits go on increasing, no one thought it dangerous to anticipate a little of the promised cornucopia. Thus, four years of California gold produced an era of extravagance unparalleled in American history. Men of moderate means imitated the rich; even the poor tried to emulate the example of their wealthier neighbors. Boston, Philadelphia, and other second rate cities imitated New York: the small towns imitated these cities; the villages imitated the towns; till the whole country was thoroughly impregnated with a spirit of lavish extravagance. The consequence was inevitable. At the first check, every one who had been living beyond his means, and counting on increased resources to carry him through, was brought to a stand; and as this class comprised nine-tenths of the business community, extensive embarrassment began to be felt. Then resort was had to desperate schemes to raise money; fraudulent banks were started, fraudulent companies organized, baseless schemes set on foot. These delayed but aggravated the crisis, and when it came, few indeed were those who could withstand it. Five months now has the process of demolition been going on; breaking down mercantile houses, banks, railroads, and financial enterprises. The public have not heard one-twentieth of the names of those who have suspended payment or compromised with their creditors since July last; does not know one tithe of the disaster that yet remains to be accomplished. Now and then temporary relief has been felt; and speculators have fancied they saw the last of the crisis—just as Nicholas Biddle, in 1837 and 1838, used to go down to Wall street every few weeks, and announce that the hard times were over, and all was about to improve. But those who are not blinded by interest or prejudice see plainly enough that the revulsion can only end when its work has been completed; when every man who has lived beyond his means has broken down; when every bank founded on a fraudulent basis has gone to the dogs; when the bulk of the swindles devised for the purpose of sustaining Fifth avenue extravagance has been exposed, and their authors stripped of their ill-gotten gains. Any one can calculate when this will be.

Amid all the distress and suffering which a revulsion like the present cannot fail to cause, it affords some consolation to reflect that crises of this nature are actually of ultimate benefit to the country. The alternate succession of periods of great expansion and corresponding contraction is becoming one of the most marked features of the progress of the United States. Ever since the war of 1812, the commercial history of this nation has been a regular series of eras of astonishing prosperity and eras of equally prodigious ruin. After the war, the diversion of capital from manufactures, and other causes produced a crisis and revulsion; after which trade revived, and the United States advanced with rapid strides. In 1828, the country broke down again. Reviving, it commenced anew with increased energy, to repeat the crash in 1837. This was, from various accidental causes, more serious and more lasting in its effects than the others. It was not till 1843 that trade began to revive. But in proportion to the violence of the fall, was the energy of the rise. Never did such enterprise mark the United States as between 1847 and 1853. It seemed as though no bounds could be set either to the stupendous conceptions or to the wonderful vigor with which they were executed by the American people. Railroads were built, steamers launched, palaces erected, cities founded, deserts opened, fleets equipped, armies of settlers sent abroad, and an encouragement given at home to the arts and luxuries such as even Europe has seldom seen. All this, as has been explained, led necessarily to the regular periodical crash, which began last July, and is now in its incipient stage. But look at its ultimate effects. Doubtless it will break down half our merchants and leading men, and, while it lasts, cause much misery; but look at the national wealth of which it will leave us in possession. All these stupendous fruits of the energy of the past ten years it cannot destroy. Our splendid cities, our cultivated plains, our vast network of railways, it cannot take away. Their authors and owners may be swept away by the storm; but their works will remain, to be held, enjoyed, and improved during the next era of expansion. It is very doubtful whether a country advances in the long run under any process as rapidly as by the fitful, spasmodic system which seems to be established in the United States.

THE OSTEND REVOLUTIONARY AND PRESIDENTIAL PROGRAMME—THE KEY TO THE WHOLE CONCERN.—Our Washington advices of this morning, touching the secret springs of the European policy of the administration and the Ostend coalition and programme for the Presidency, throw a flood of light upon the whole subject. We venture to say that the archives of the State Department, public and secret included, do not contain a more interesting, instructive, clear and luminous letter, upon the important subjects which it discusses, than this invaluable letter furnished by our correspondent in the premises, from A. Dudley Mann.

Mark the date of this letter—Paris, February 7, 1853—anterior to the inauguration of Pierce or the proclamation of his Cabinet. Observe how succinctly the author chalks out the foreign policy of the administration—a reform in the costume of our diplomats to the true democratic standard—no association beyond the forms of politeness with the diplomatic lacquies of the European monarchies—no sympathy with Continental aristocrats—active sympathy with the red republicans and socialists—active filibustering propagandism, according to the plan laid down by Kossuth—open contempt for Louis Napoleon, and a league with the socialists to put him down—the most positive and independent democratic disregard of all the social usages of the European courts; the snug little post of Secretaryship of the Paris Legation to Willie, "thoroughly qualified to discharge its duties," as a chip of the old block, well satisfied that "it would redound to the glory of Gen. Pierce's administration;" and above all, "a death blow"—mark that—"a death blow to the American aristocracy, (the codfish aristocracy, no doubt,) which has exercised so baneful an influence, adverse to our institutions and our interests, in Paris."

Such is the skeleton outline of the diplomatic programme of A. Dudley Mann, within a month before the promulgation of the inaugural. And we see the whole of it carried out, except the appointment of Willie; and with regard to the disposition of that young gentleman we are still in doubt. A better arrangement than that proposed, was, perhaps, adopted in the appointment of Willie's governor as under Secretary of State. But, otherwise, the programme of Mr. Mann is the master key to the European policy of Gen. Pierce. It gives us the origin of Marcy's circular on diplomatic coats and breeches—it explains the squabbles of Soulé at Madrid, and with Louis Napoleon, the red republican proclamations of Sanders, the quarrel between Sickles and Peabody; and it betrays the master spirit of the Ostend convention and its European revolutionary and American Presidential platform. After reading this letter of February, 1853, not another word of explanation is needed to account for the presence of A. Dudley Mann in Europe in 1854, pending the Ostend convention, or for his return after the dispersion of that mysterious conference. This letter explains it all.

We cannot do full justice to this remarkable letter at a single sitting. After our readers have digested it, in connection with all our previous disclosures of the Ostend league, we shall recur to it again. It is a perfect gem, this most extraordinary letter—the real Koh-i-Noor of the diplomatic jewels of the State Department. It must be viewed from various points to discover all its beauties. It was Marcy's Koh-i-Noor. It has fallen into our possession, and we cheerfully give it to the sovereign American people as a New Year's present. It is the real "mountain of light."

THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE FRENCH MISSION.—The half dozen organs of the administration, scattered thinly over the country, are continually lamenting the great primary blunder of Gen. Pierce in failing to appoint James Gordon Bennett as Minister to France. Perhaps—as Mr. Dudley Mann says, in recommending Willie for Secretary of Legation at Paris—perhaps our appointment as Minister there might have "redounded to the glory of the administration;" but we doubt whether we could have prevented our late diplomatic troubles and shocking blunders elsewhere on the Continent, short of a complete abandonment of the programme of Mr. Mann by the government. As an ambassador appointed under that programme, we certainly should have resigned the French mission at once. We could never consent to accept a mission to a foreign and friendly government under instructions, express or implied, to sympathise and co-operate with its red republican enemies in their efforts to stir up a revolution. But what has become of Willie? Was Willie to have been our Secretary of Legation? Where is Willie?

THE KNOW NOTHINGS NOT ABOLITIONISTS.—Southern members of Congress err gravely in charging upon the Know Nothings of New England anti-slavery proclivities. In the first place, the Know Nothing movement has already rendered substantial service to the Union by clearing away the wreck of the Nebraska agitation, and demolishing at one fell blow the whole structure of the new anti-slavery party which was attempted to be established at Worcester, Saratoga, in Michigan and elsewhere. The republican party, as the new faction was to have been called, was completely crushed out by the Know Nothings. From the first, the Know Nothings have been opposed by the abolitionists, and are deadly foes to Seward and his party. Again, as was seen by the papers yesterday, the Rev. Theodore Parker, the abolitionist, was defeated by an enormous majority in the Boston Legislature; showing conclusively that the Know Nothings who are in power in that State are not inclined to favor the anti-slavery party in New England. It is not to be expected that men in Boston shall think on slavery as men in Carolina do. Brought up under a different system and in a regoin where slavery can never thrive, the people of Massachusetts can hardly ever coincide exactly with the South in their views on the subject. But so long as they agree not to molest it, and to give full scope to the provisions of the constitution, it is hard to see what good ground they afford for complaint. The South may rely on the soundness of the Know Nothings.

MORE PROTESTS AGAINST THE KINNEY MOSQUITO EXPEDITION.—We publish to day several official letters from the Nicaraguan minister to Mr. Marcy, and also the correspondence between him and the officers of the Nicaragua Transit Company, in reference to the Kinney expedition. Although the letters of Mr. Marcy do not appear, we infer from the tenor of Mr. Marcoleta's second and very able letter that the venerable bear of the State Department has gone a step further than in his letter to Mr. Molina, and turned special pleader for the comprehensive company to which we have alluded. Should he fail in his schemes to succeed Pierce, he may fall back upon some high position in Kinney's new republic. It will be a capital place for him, for the habits of that delectable region are such, and the notions of propriety which prevail there so expansive, that he may go indefinitely with holes in his pantaloons, or without pantaloons at all, if he shall be so inclined. The treasury of the new republic, therefore, need anticipate no demands on account of patched breeches. We have no doubt that the badgered premier already longs for

A lodge in some vast wilderness,
Some boundless contiguity of shade!

And Kinney's new republic will be just the place for him. Catching lizards and digging wild roots will afford a pleasant relief to being thrust at with sharp sticks, and bedevilled by waspish diplomats.

We must have Marcy's argument in behalf of the Mosquito Company. Let the *Union* bring it out, or Congress call for it. It may deserve to be classed with the Koszta letter, or the bulletin on costume.

It appears, *per contra*, that while Cost Johnson has got Marcy, he has lost some of his directors. Mr. J. L. White, whose name figures in the list of new officers published a few days ago, backs out squarely; and Mr. Morgan cuts the Mosquito scheme. It would be a sad *denouement* if this company should never emerge from its chrysalis state, and that its originators should be obliged to confine themselves for a few years longer to three cent drinks. But Marcy has killed everything he has taken hold of; and the Kinney stock has sunk rapidly since it received the equivocal honor of administrative favor.

Things look as if the expeditionists will meet with a warm reception if they ever leave the United States, which we much doubt. The New Granadian, Costa Rican, Guatemalan, and Nicaraguan ministers have all entered their protests against them; and however much they may differ on other points, all these governments seem to be united in an inflexible opposition to the Kinney and Johnson scheme. But we imagine they need not give themselves further trouble. The worst thing they could do against the adventurers would be to let them land, and leave them to the tender mercies of the vomito and fever. Seven or eight colonization schemes have been attempted on the Mosquito coast, but the deluded settlers never succeeded in clearing more ground than sufficed for their graves.

REVULSION AMONG THE THEATRES—THREE SHUT UP.—Walking up Broadway, the other day, we met Mr. William Niblo, his face covered with smiles. "How is Mr. Niblo?" "Ah!" he replied, "I am at last a happy man!" "What has taken place?" "I will tell you," rejoined Mr. Niblo: "This morining I called together all my people, singers, dancers, actors, fiddlers, scene shifters, carpenters, supernumeraries, and so forth; I then paid them all off—every cent—and gave orders to close the theatre. I am now perfectly free; I shall retire from the field and wait for better times."

This revulsion among the theatres is an example of the progress of the revolution which is now rapidly spreading through all ranks of society. Within the last two or three weeks three of the city theatres have been shut up on account of the hardness of the times—the Academy of Music, the National theatre, and, last, Niblo's, one of the most popular places of amusement in the city.

The Academy of Music was established by the aristocracy of this city, and its founders intended to compete with the efforts of the aristocracy of London and Paris in similar establishments. But it was a failure. Although the greatest artists were brought over, it did not pay even for one short season. The manager received a letter of condolence and a benefit. The doors were then closed.

The National theatre, for several years a profitable house, under the management of Mr. Purdy, has been closed for want of patronage, and will probably remain closed for some time to come.

The principal theatres now open are the Broadway, Burton's, and Wallack's. The Negro Minstrels have lately taken to theatrical entertainments. The Broadway and the Minstrels seem to be the most prosperous; and, judging from present appearances, it seems probable that all these establishments will be able to stand the pressure.

The recent shutting up of the theatres will cause much distress among the artists and employés; they will be scattered all over the country, in search of employment, and many will be unsuccessful. They have a claim on the public bounty, and we trust that the matter will be taken into consideration, and some arrangements made by which their sufferings may be relieved.

SEWARD'S RE-ELECTION.—It has been seen from the letters from Albany, that if only twenty-five of the forty-four whig Know Nothings are true to their principles, Mr. Seward can be defeated. Yet so confident are his friends that the Know Nothing ranks do not contain twenty-five true men, that his re-election is looked upon as a certainty, and the future policy by which he intends to revive the influence of foreigners and re-marshal the Irish vote is freely canvassed in certain circles. That Mr. Seward's friends, judging from their own experience, should be quite ready to believe that the canal spoils and other engines of corruption will induce more than half the whig Know Nothings to desert their colors, is only natural; the mistake they make is to confound the new party with the old ones. If the Know Nothings have been correctly represented by their leaders, it is in just such emergencies as this that the difference between them and the old factions will be apparent. Still, the power of plunder is great; and it would be well for the lodges all over the country to keep a vigilant watch over their brethren in the Legislature. If Seward is re-elected, a stunning blow will be inflicted on the Know Nothing party, and their past triumphs will go for nothing. If he is defeated, the old whigs may be considered as settled, and the arena will be clear for the Presidential fight.

A GREAT CHANGE.—A little over a year ago, such was the pressure which W. H. Seward brought to bear upon the Legislature at Albany in favor of Archbishop Hughes, that there was great danger of the passage of a bill turning over into his possession all the Catholic church property in the State. Now what do we see? A bill introduced of exactly the opposite character, going, as far as bill can go, against the policy of the Archbishop; and not a single Seward man rising in his defence. Is not this the most cruel treatment of an absent friend? Let the Catholic supporters of the Archbishop put their trust no longer in Seward. He has turned to the worship of strange gods and bad liquor to secure his re-election. We fought against the Archbishop's bill; but where was Seward then, and where is he now? Who can answer for Seward?

THE LATEST NEWS.

BY MAGNETIC AND PRINTING TELEGRAPHS.

Intensely Interesting from Washington.

STILL MORE OF THE OSTEND AND CABINET BUCHANAN INTRIGUES FOR THE SUCCESSION—PLAIN STATEMENT OF THE CASE—VERY CURIOUS, VERY INSTRUCTIVE ORIGINAL LETTER OF A. DUDLEY MANN, FURNISHING A COMPLETE OUTLINE OF PIERCE'S EUROPEAN POLICY, AND OF THE BUCHANAN PROGRAMME OF THE OSTEND CONVENTION.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5, 1855.

The grand European and Kitchen Cabinet combination, or plot, for giving Buchanan the nomination of the next Baltimore Democratic Convention, and for setting aside both Pierce and Marcy, is making very rapid progress both at home and abroad.

I can state, from the best authority, that Daniel E. Sickles has positively resigned his official situation at London, and with the full concurrence, and with the best relations of friendship, and of a common interest, with Buchanan. Sickles comes to Washington, in fact, as an aide-de-camp of Buchanan, and is to take the important post of joint editor of the *Union* with Forney. You know that this is a shrewd move on the part of Buchanan. Sickles is better acquainted with the subterranean machinery of New York democratic politics than all the Kitchen Cabinet put together. Besides this, while as a general writer Forney is flashy and shallow, Sickles is keen, astute, and practical. He is the very man wanted in the Washington organ; for without an intimate knowledge of New York politics it is perfectly useless to attempt to manage the affairs of the democratic party, or of any other party, in view of the succession.

In connection with this important transfer of Sickles to headquarters, another move of the Ostend plot has been simultaneously assigned to George Sanders. He has left London, via the West Indies, for New Orleans, at which point he is to commence a confidential agitation among the leading democrats, in behalf of Buchanan and a strong Cuban platform. Soulé, in the meantime, is to provoke a rupture with Spain, call for his passports, return home, excite a flare-up with Marcy, and stir up the whole South against him. Soulé, in this view, may possibly return very soon; but, at the farthest, his part of the game is to be carried out in the course of the spring, or very early in the summer.

Mason, in the same connection, is preparing to settle up his accounts at Paris, and to return home. He may be wanted to fill a possible vacancy in the present Cabinet; and it has also been whispered to him that Buchanan would prefer on his ticket John Y. Mason for Vice President, to any other man. Belmont, too, will be required on this side the Atlantic, as the money-lending Jew of this Buchanan alliance; for these politicians, you know, are always in want of funds. In this light Belmont will be indispensable. He bleeds freely—very freely—for a Jew; but he looks forward to a good interest on his investments.

Lastly, Buchanan himself, as you are aware, is to return in the spring, and plant himself in the central position of Pennsylvania—an excellent point for directing the movements of his agents around the circumference. Magnificent plot this, and beautifully arranged.

The history of all the diplomatic, Cabinet, and Kitchen Cabinet intrigues and wire-workings, resulting in the adoption of this scheme, is full of the most amusing, the most surprising, and the most extraordinary facts. The most curious and surprising of them all has just come to light. Yes, sir. A. Dudley Mann, Under Secretary of State, called to that position from abroad, to supply the deficiencies of Marcy's ignorance of European diplomacy and foreign languages, is the author of Pierce's Continental policy, and of the European revolutionary and Presidential programme of the Ostend convention.

The following remarkable letter, somewhere, perhaps, on file in the State Department, or among the archives of the Kitchen Cabinet, I have the liberty to transcribe from the original, in the hand-writing of A. Dudley Mann. Read it, and give it to the world, for the special edification of Mr. Bayly, Chairman on Foreign Affairs of the House; for he is wonderfully innocent and ignorant of the main springs of Pierce's diplomacy and this Ostend league for the Presidency. Read it:—

PARIS, Monday, Feb. 7, 1853.

MY DEAR MR. * * * *

This, I presume, will find you in Washington. If you have access, as I am persuaded you have, to General Pierce, urge the immediate appointment of a Minister to France. It is of primary importance—I may say of paramount importance—that a thorough democrat should come here; a man who would represent, in his general and official bearing, the people and the institutions of our country—a man who, in his social intercourse, would extend the hand of brotherly affection to the republicans of France, instead of courting the aristocracy or the minions of power. His door, his hand, his heart should be open to the votaries of that system of government which it is our duty to extend to all the nations of the earth. He should take Franklin and Jefferson as his guides, instead of the small men whom we have had at this metropolis recently—small because they have neglected the true interests of the Union, and placed themselves under the lead of the diplomatic corps—a corps of liveried lackeys, with which an American ought not to associate beyond the rules required by ordinary politeness, and with which we can have no sentiments in common.

I wish to see our government, in accordance with upright democratic sentiment, frown indignantly upon everything that savors of monarchy or court customs. The new Secretary of State will have a glorious field to effect reforms in the usages of our representatives abroad. He should begin by instructing them to wear, upon accustomed occasions, a simple blue dress coat, and pantaloons of the same color, with white waistcoat, with the American eagle upon his button, and the hat of a citizen. The use of lace in every form should be forbidden. The gaudy court suit now in use is suited to the subject or slave of an autocrat—to mark him, as the dog is marked upon the collar which he wears—but not to an agent of the sovereign people of the Union. Reigning princes have no right to prescribe a dress in which our minister shall appear before them. Our representatives should be instructed to abandon the practice of putting the servants whom they employ in livery. A genteel suit of black is much more becoming, and on no account should the noble bird of Jove descend so low as to be mounted upon a servant's hat. The legation should be kept open from ten until four; and its incumbent should, at least two hours every day, receive his countrymen there, however their condition. But, my dear sir, I have only time to glance at the subject. You, I am sure, will approve of the suggestions I have made, and, as a true patriot and democrat, endeavor to have them acted upon.

Now, *entre vous et moi*, I am exceedingly anxious that Willie should receive this secretaryship. I am confident that he is thoroughly qualified to discharge the duties connected with it, and to give it an elevation which it never attained. I would use every exertion to have the legation located in a central part of the city, and to make it an American home—instead of a place of chilling reception and elegant indifference and disrespect to our citizens. I never was better posted up than I am at this moment upon French and European affairs, and I am confident I could, through Willie, render services that would redound to the glory of Gen. Pierce's administration. I write thus freely to you, because you know both of us well, and I would like you to make these representations in the proper quarter. It is all-important that we should strike a death blow to the American aristocracy which has exercised so baneful an influence, adverse to our institutions and to our interests in Paris.

Louis Napoleon cannot sustain long, and in view of this we want not only a minister, but a secretary also, of pure stuff—ready to sympathize with our fellow republicans in adversity, and to enjoy their victories in case they succeed. The government should make a demonstration, in its appointments to the government of the Tuileries, that we have finished with titles and toadyism; and this would give us reputation at once.

I wish you would read this to our ardent friend ****. If I had time to write to him, I should express exactly the same opinions and views.

My labors in Switzerland I am informed by Willie, have been appreciated by Mr. Fillmore, and that there was every chance, when writing, that the treaty would be perfected. I am confident that my mission to Old Helvetia exercised a benign influence upon her destinies. I have never received an outfit, and as I am no better off, in a pecuniary point of view, than when I entered the public service eleven years ago, I think Congress ought to give me one, and I have accordingly asked for it. Willie will explain to you particulars, and I would thank you if you would use your influence in such quarters as will tell best in my behalf.

Tell Gen. Pierce to fix his eye steadily upon Europe. Its movements cannot be too closely watched. The aristocratic alliance was never so well matured before. Its policy is to thrust France forward as its most powerful maritime champion, and her ruler is admirably disposed to involve us in hostilities. Yours truly,

A. DUDLEY MANN.

It will be seen from this instructive document, that it is the very cream of the plot. First, it gives us the germ of the official circulars of Marcy, of June, 1853, on diplomatic costume, in instructions drawn up with the precision of a Chatham street tailor, from the blue cloth pantaloons to the hat of a citizen. The bright idea, too, of adopting Franklin as our diplomatic model, it will here be seen, belongs to Mann, and not to Marcy. Secondly, we see by this letter that it was Dudley Mann who chalked out the European revolutionary, red republican, socialist programme for our diplomatic corps. Hence the filibustering appointments of Soulé, O'Sullivan, Daniel, and the socialist, Robert Dale Owen, and such. Hence, the Swiss and French circulars of George Sanders; and hence the Ostend convention, which Mann was sent over to manage. Thirdly, we find here the key to the first bold instructions of Marcy to Soulé, Belmont, and others, a satisfactory solution of the squabble between Soulé and Louis Napoleon, and a clear insight into the rupture between Daniel E. Sickles and George Peabody.

Marcy was finely taken in by this masterly letter—he had such confidence in the surprising European knowledge and experience of his assistant. It was not till after the meeting of the Ostend convention that the old Premier began to smell a rat. But when he did discover that at the bottom of this Dudley Mann programme of democratic American diplomacy, and European socialism, there was a deep laid Buchanan plot for the Presidency, and that Cushing and Forney and the President were mixed up in the scheme, Marcy from that moment became savage and intractable. The President was bound to submit, as this letter of Mann's will abundantly show. It may seem strange that the President should be in the plot to set aside Mr. Pierce as a nincompoop; but such appears to be the fact.

These things cannot last. They are fast coming to a crisis; and be not surprised if even before the return of Buchanan, Soulé, Mason and Belmont, there is a crash in the Cabinet, and a blow-up of the administration. What will Willie do?

ARRIVAL OF GENERAL HOUSTON—THE ARMSTRONG CLAIM, ETC.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5, 1855.

Gen. Sam. Houston reached here this evening, in fine health, and took quarters at Willard's. He pronounces the rumor of his resignation, by your correspondent, entirely false. He reports Know Nothingism omnipotent in Texas.

The General Armstrong claim, now before Congress, will certainly pass.

The amount of Treasury notes outstanding on the 1st of January was $112,561 64.

UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5, 1855.

Supreme Court—Nos. 38 and 39.—James Williams, administrator, appellant, vs. Robert Oliver's executors, and John Goodings, administrator, appellant, vs. Robert Oliver's executors. Argument concluded by Mr. Dulaney for the appellants. No. 163.—Alfred Savignac, plaintiff in error, vs. Abraham Garrison. The motion to reinstate and for a supersedeas in this cause was argued by Mr. Baxter in support, and by Mr. Ewing in opposition. No. 3—Original Docket—The State of Florida, complainant, vs. the State of Georgia. Argument on the motion to intervene in behalf of the United States, was commenced by the Attorney-General. Thomas Balch, Esq., of Philadelphia, was admitted as an attorney of this court to-day.

From the State Capital.

PREPARING FOR WORK—NOTICES OF BILLS TO BE INTRODUCED—NON-RESIDENTS AND TAXATION—THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT—THE PROHIBITORY BILL—FINANCES OF THE STATE, ETC.

ALBANY, Jan. 5, 1855.

Both houses will be prepared to engage in legislative business in the course of next week. Notice is already given of a large number of bills which members intend to introduce. Mr. Munday informed the House this morning, that he intended to bring in a bill to grant property holders on lines of streets to be opened, power to conduct the opening at their own individual expense and supervision, without being compelled to pay commissions, as has long been the case, to amounts greater than property adjoining is worth. Such a law should be adopted, and every real estate owner up-town should send petitions for it.

A bill, which Mr. Leigh has given notice of, to prevent the destruction of New York harbor, is the same which met with such earnest opposition last year from Brooklyn. The old fight of water jurisdiction will be revived between the rival cities.

A bill passed the Senate in committee, this morning, compelling non-residents doing business in New York to pay taxes upon their capital. Mr. Whitney stated that there were sixty millions of dollars, one-third of which is owned out of the United States, which is not taxed, and cannot be reached under our present laws. Capitalists doing business in New York enjoy all the protection from fires, robbery, &c., are guarded by the police, and possess all the advantages of residents, without paying a dollar in the shape of taxes towards the support of the city government. Mr. Brooks said that under the proposed law fifty millions can be reached, which will add greatly to the taxable property of the State.

The people of the counties of Ontario and Livingston are without a representative in the Senate of this State. The population of no Senatorial district is more intelligent, enterprising or patriotic than that residing within the limits of the Twenty-ninth district, and no where exist a more ready people to contribute towards the support of government, by means of direct taxation or otherwise. They have a great share, for weal or woe, in the legislation going on at Albany, but at present they are absolutely disfranchised, so far as their voice is concerned, in the Senate. Fearing that an intention exists among certain distinguished gentlemen to keep that voice stifled until measures of an important character shall be disposed of, Mr. Lyman Odell, a member of the House from Livingston county, informed that body yesterday that he should introduce a bill postponing the election of United States Senator until the vacancy in place of Myron H. Clark shall be filled. This will test the Know Nothing strength. The Seward whigs, not yet having a majority, will oppose the bill. The delay in ordering the election for Senator in the Twenty ninth district is now believed to be intentional. Mr. Odell also intends to introduce a bill to provide for the immediate election of a Senator in place of Clark. The probability is, that rather than be thus driven to the wall, his Excellency will issue his proclamation ordering the election. Mr. S. V. R. Mallory, of Ontario, will be elected, but scarcely in season to vote against William H. Seward.

The identical copy of the Maine liquor prohibitory bill which Gov. Seymour vetoed, was introduced in the House yesterday by Mr. Leigh, and in the Senate to-day by Mr. W. Clark. The only alteration is that it is proposed to take effect on the first of May, instead of December. From the activity already displayed in both houses by the friends of the measure, it is evident that the whigs will be driven to the unpleasant alternative of voting upon the prohibitory bill before the attempt is made to elect a United States Senator.

The acknowledged insolvency of the General Fund of the State, by the Comptroller, and his recommendation to impose a mill tax upon the people for the support of government, have created a wonder