NEW YORK HERALD.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway—MARIANA—TWO BONNYCASTLES.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery—BLIND MINE—MASSACRE OF THE MICHILLIMANINAC—COLUMBIA'S SON.

BURTON'S THEATRE, Chambers street—PRIDE WILL HAVE A FALL—SOPHIA'S SUPPER.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway—THE SOLDIER'S COURTSHIP—THE SISTERS—GENTLEMAN FROM IRELAND.

METROPOLITAN THEATRE, Broadway—EQUESTRIAN PERFORMANCES—LA TOUR DE NESLE.

AMERICAN MUSEUM—Afternoon—LIVING TOO FAST—A GHOST IN SPITE OF HIMSELF. Evening—IRON KING—FAINT HEART NEVER WON FAIR LADY.

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

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

New York, Thursday, January 11, 1855.

News for the Pacific.

The steamship Star of the West, Captain E. W. Turner, will leave this port to-morrow afternoon, at 3 o'clock, for Punta Arenas.

THE NEW YORK HERALD—California edition—containing all the latest news by mail and telegraph from all parts of the world, will be published at eleven o'clock to-morrow morning. Agents will please send in their orders as early as possible.

The News.

The steamship North Star, which arrived yesterday, brought one week later news from California, and over one million one hundred thousand dollars in gold dust, which is a still further decline on the previous semi monthly shipment. The intelligence is very meagre, nothing having transpired during the week previous to the 16th ult., the day on which the steamer left San Francisco, worthy of note.

The North Star brought the intelligence of a disastrous gale which occurred at Aspinwall on the 31st ult., the particulars of which will be found among the news brought by that vessel.

News from Cathagena, of 14th of December, announce the triumph of the constitutional party over the Dictater Melo and his forces at Bogota, on the 4th of the same month, after an obstinate resistance on the part of the revolutionists who fought for two days and lost a great many men. Melo and his leading partizans were takes prisoners, after a total defeat. The joy of the triumph is diminished by the intelligence of the death of General Thomas Herrera, who was killed. He was much respected, both as a soldier and a politician. This victory puts an end to the revolution, which commenced in May of 1854, when General Herrera, with most of the members of Congress, fled from Bogata. The official bulletins are given.

Advices from Peru state that after the engagement between the forces of Don Domingo Elias and General Moran, on the heights of Conde, the former retired to Arequipa, where Moran determined to follow him, after uniting his men with those under General Vivanco. However, before the union Vivanco was attacked by an army from Arequipa, and lost two cannon, three hundred and fifty muskets, and a quantity of ammunition. The two generals attacked the city of Arequipa, but met with a determined resistance for two days from the inhabitants. The government troops were in the end compelled to give way, with a loss of 1,500 men killed, wounded, or missing. In three hours after his defeat General Moran was shot by sentence of a court martial. General Vivanco was seriously wounded in the action.

We learn from Chile that the political arena was for once unoccupied. The report that the Araucan Indians had revolted in the south was incorrrect, but the frontier garrisons were being strengthened In the administration the same parties were in power, and the same course of government pursued. Laws for the reforming of municipalities, preference of creditors' bills, and that of joint stock companies, were proposed to the legislative body. A destructive fire had destroyed $150,000 worth of property in Valparaiso. No material change in the markets. Dry goods trade lively. Flour was still down.

No direct news from the republic of Bolivia. Gen. Acha had seized all the money in the mint at Potosi and of the bank, which at least amounts to $400,000. He likewise obtained possession of a large and valuable supply of munitions of war, that was on its way from Cobija to Oruro.

We have Australia dates to October 12. The price of gold had receded sixpence per ounce. A new field had been discovered at Lake George. The reports from new diggings are encouraging. A continuance of dry weather throughout the colony threatened to render the fruit and grain harvest very short. Latterly, however, rain had fallen in some districts. Three Finlanders, who had been taken prisoners of war in the Baltic, and were allowed to enter the English merchant service, had deserted from their ship in South Australia, and it was thought were acting as spies for the Russian government. Miss Catherine Hayes had been giving concerts in Sydney with great success. Her last performance was seriously interrupted by the extempore accompaniment of a baby in a lady's arms, which created great confusion.

Our dates from the Sandwich Islands are to the 23d of November. There is no news of importance. Measures were being taken for the establishment of a Sailor's Home, at Honolulu. Thirty whalers had returned from the Arctic Ocean, without a drop of oil. The French war frigate Alceste had arrived from Callao. Mrs. Moulton and Miss Josephine were performing at the Varieties. The national holiday was observed as usual.

The news from Acapulco, which we have received up to the 22d of December, is of some importance. The revolutionists, under Alvarez in person, obtained a signal victory over the government troops at the pass of Calvaria, and, according to all appearances, they are fully able to maintain the position of independence they assumed during last winter's campaign. Reliable accounts from Mexico hint that Santa Anna is disposed to sell Sonora to raise funds for carrying on the war. We publish elsewhere some translations, as well as the letter of our Acapulco correspondent, which will be found highly interesting.

We give this morning an interesting letter from Paraguay, an unhappy republic, where there has always been some kind of a fuss for the last twenty years.

In the U. S. Senate yesterday, Mr. Dawson read a letter from the citizens of Savannah, Ga., asking for the removal of obstructions in their harbor, and said that he should report a bill for that purpose. Mr. Pratt, of Maryland, presented a petition from numerous merchants asking Congress to provide against the difficulties arising from the abolition of corporal punishment to seamen. Mr. Clayton handed in a petition asking further protection to American manufactures. Gen. Cass moved that the first Monday in February be assigned for the consideration of the resolutions relative to the freedom of religious worship in foreign countries, which was agreed to. Mr. Fish gave notice that he intended to introduce a bill for the erection of a Custom House and Post Office at Plattsburg, N. Y. Mr. Brodhead, of Penn., introduced a joint resolution for sending one or more vessels to the relief of Dr. Kane. A petition from citizens of Massachusetts asking for the passage of a law prohibiting the employment of military men in any civil office, was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. The Judicial Reform bill was taken up, and debated until the Senate went into executive session.

In the House of Representatives most of the day was occupied in the discussion of Mr. Dawson's amendment to the Homestead bill, which was finally rejected by a vote of 93 to 72.

In the State Senate yesterday, notice was given of the introduction of a bill to prevent issues of stock or a greater amount of money than is paid in. Mr. Barr gave notice of a bill to amend the Savings Bank incorporation act, and Mr. Brooks of one to preserve the harbor of New York, and to remove obstructions therefrom. The resolution relative to the improvement of the navigation of St. Clair Flats was called up, and a debate had thereon. The Senate held an executive session but few nominations were sent in.

In the Assembly the standing committees were announced. The resolution of Mr. Waterbury for the appointment of a select committee to examine into the condition of the savings banks, was lost, and a resolution directing the Committee on Banks to inquire into their condition, adopted. Notice was given of bills for two additional justices of the Marine Court in New York, and asking an appropriation for the erection of a monument to Lieut. Col. Baxter. A bill was introduced instructing the Judiciary Committee to inquire into the expediency of limiting the courts in granting naturalization papers. Mr. Blatchford gave notice of a bill to enable the Supervisors of the city and county of New York to raise money by tax, the details of which will be found among the proceedings.

Our special telegraphic despatch from Schenectady in relation to the Seward Know Nothing State Council is decidedly rich. It will be seen that a committee is to be appointed to watch the progress of the Senatorial election at Albany, and that Daniel Ullmann receives a large portion of abuse and vituperation.

It is stated that the democratic members of the U. S. Senate will shortly make a demonstration against the Know Nothings. Senator Adams is said to be the only Senator of that party who is disinclined to take ground against them.

The Southern Convention met at New Orleans on the 8th inst. Ten States were represented, and one hundred and ten delegates present, including eighty-three from Louisiana. Gen. Lamar, of Texas, was chosen president.

It is said that the reciprocity treaty has been sent to England from Canada for ratification by the home government, and is expected to be returned to Washington about the 1st of February, when it will become the law of the land.

The Old Soldiers and Indians who have been in convention at Washington city, yesterday visited the grave of Washington. They were accompanied by a large crowd of persons. After returning to Washington they were formed in close order, and a brief parting address made by General Coombs, when they were disbanded, and the members of the convention departed for their respective homes.

The Convention of the Military Association of the State of New York brought its proceeding to a close yesterday, after a session of two days. The annual address which we publish elsewhere was delivered by Brigadier General Gustavus Adolphus Scroggs, who it will be remembered was the Know Nothing candidate for Lieutenant Governor.

An influential meeting of the drovers and receivers of live stock was held at the Hudson River Hotel, in this city, on the 1st inst., for the purpose of considering the best means of procuring an abatement of certain grievances which they say are inflicted on them by different railroad companies—the New York Central and Erie in particular—in the transmission of cattle to market. After organizing, the meeting was adjourned to next day. The body met at Tammany Hall on the 2d inst., when a series of very stringent and high toned resolutions hostile to the interests of the Erie road were adopted, and very many hardships set forth. We have a report of the proceedings, but, owing to its great length, we are compelled to leave it out.

The Board of Education met last evening for the purpose of organizing for the coming year. In the case of the contested election of the Fourth ward, where three Commissioners were returned instead of two, the Board declared Judge McCarthy elected as the recipient of the largest number of votes, and the question of the other contested seat was referred to a select committee of five. Wm. H. Neilson, Esq., Commissioner of the Tenth ward, was elected President, and Albert Gilbert was re-elected Clerk

The Commissioners of Emigration held a meeting yesterday afternoon. A communication from the Mayor, calling the attention of the Commissioners to the complaint of Dr. Byrnes stating that proper attention was not paid to the health of passengers on their voyage to this country and after landing, was placed on file. According to the weekly statement it appears that up to the 10th inst., 3,100 immigrants have arrived at this port this year, and that the Commissioners have at present under their charge 1,992 persons.

By an affidavit annexed to the proceedings of the Commissioners of Emigration, it will be seen that a load of pauper German emigrants, who had been wrecked on Sable Island and taken to Halifax, had their passage to this city from the latter place paid by some unknown person. But a few days since we recorded the arrival of a number of pauper and criminal Belgians, whose passage had been paid by the authorities, and it seems a settled purpose with some of the European governments to force their useless and troublesome population upon this country.

In the Board of Councilmen last evening the petition of mechanics, artisans and laborers asking that the Board may devise some means whereby they can obtain employment, was received and referred. A resolution, introduced by Councilman Wild, that the Croton Aqueduct Committee take into consideration the propriety of immediately constructing the main receiving reservoir for the Croton Aqueduct, was referred to the Aqueduct Committee. The special committee to whom was referred the petition of Wm. Clancy, claiming to have been elected from the Fifth district, reported that he had no claim in law or equity, and called for a new election on the first Tuesday in February. A preamble and resolution from the Governors of the Almshouse requesting the Council to appropriate such sum as they may deem proper for the purpose of furnishing nutritious food to the poor during the present depression in business, if in their opinion such necessity exists, was referred to the Almshouse Committee. Some other business was performed, and the Board adjourned to the 12th inst.

Large numbers of unemployed workmen assembled in the Park at an early hour yesterday morning. After some speech making, a procession was formed, and with banners, bearing various inscriptions, marched through the principal streets of the city, and back to the Park again. Here more speechifying took place, and a committee was appointed to wait immediately on the Mayor, who, in answer to the complaint of the committee, said that he deeply sympathized with the working men, but possessed no power to grant them relief. Much excitement prevailed in the crowd during the day. We refer to our report for particulars.

The Longshoremen's Benevolent Society held a meeting on Tuesday evening, at the Shakespeare Hotel, to take into consideration the reduction of the wages of their employes by some of the shipping merchants. After several speeches expressive of their indignation toward those who had made such reduction at this unfavorable season, a vote of thanks was passed to the merchants who are paying the prices, and a collection taken up for those who had refused to work at the reduced price.

The Howard Association of New Orleans, on the 9th inst., appropriated two thousand dollars for the relief of the suffering poor of New York.

Flour was without further change yesterday, with a fair amount of sales. Michigan white wheat sold at $2 45. Indian corn was one cent a bushel lower, and closed at $1 03 a $1 04 for Western mixed. Rye was firm at $1 38 a $1 40. Mess pork sold to a moderate extent, at $12 25, with one small lot at $12 37. 600 tierces Vermont prime mess beef sold for export at $27 50. Cotton was firm and active, with sales of about 6,000 bales, chiefly in transitu, at full prices. Freights to English ports were steady, with fair shipments of provisions and other articles. There have also recently gone forward considerable quantities of provisions to France, Belgium, &c.

English Opinions of the War.

British orators in Parliament as well as British newspapers represent the present war as one in which civilization is engaged on one side against barbarism on the other. They depict the Czar as the genius of the latter, and claim for the Western Powers the title of champions of enlightenment and progress. They likewise represent that, whereas they are fighting for the extension of freedom, their enemy combats for the maintenance of despotism. With these ideas, they convince themselves they have a right to American sympathy, and assume an offended and angry tone because it has not already been vouchsafed to them.

There is a good deal of misapprehension here. The British, like most other nations, are too apt to fancy themselves in the right under any and all circumstances, and to believe when they have a quarrel, that their cause is not only righteous and just, but humane, liberal, generous, enlightened and religious, when in point of fact, the scales of right are so nicely balanced that it is hard for a neutral to judge between them and their adversary. It is only within the last few years that Englishmen have allowed themselves to be convinced that they were all wrong in the American war, and very far from right in the wars against Napoleon. Eighty years ago the merchants of London were severely reprimanded by the Court for withholding their sympathy from the armies sent to subjugate the colonies; and forty and fifty years ago, a stray writer or speaker who ventured to deny England's right to crush Napoleon was immediately clapped into the stocks. Now it is John Bright who is mobbed and burnt in effigy: it is the United States whose "sympathies with barbarism and despotism" are complained of and groaned over in St. Stephens and elsewhere.

Let us look into this. The allies call Russia a despotism; and such assuredly it is. From the days of Peter the Great, the Czar's throne has been despotic; and with the exception of a few years at the beginning of the reigns of Alexander and Nicholas, it has been more than despotic, it has been tyrannical. But what is France but a despotism? Napoleon III. has quite as much of his own way as Nicholas; and the Russian people seem to have quite as large a share in the government of Muscovy as the French in that of France. No man pretends seriously that France is not a despotism; and none who have thought over the *coup d'etat*, and the other measures of the imperial government can deny that it has been and may be still a despotism of a cruel and most tyrannical order. Wherein then lies the difference between Nicholas and Napoleon, Russia and France? If England is trying to break down one despotism, she is helping sustain another; one at least counterbalances the other. We say nothing for the present of the despotic features in the British constitution: the House of Lords, the rule forbidding generals to notice the bravery of common soldiers, the hereditary monarch, the privileges of classes, &c., &c., though they should be taken into account if Russia is to be placed beyond the pale of nations in consequence of her depotism; the case of France, so magnificently eulogised in the British Parliament, is enough to settle the present case. If England is entitled to our sympathy because she combats a despot in Russia, she has a right on the same principle to our hatred because she allies herself with and sustains a despot in France. What is meritorious in the one is compensated by what is reprehensible in the other: and the position of England is just the same as if Nicholas were a republican President or a constitutional monarch.

Next, as to civilization. Admitting all that is said by British writers to be true—Russia aims at the conquest of Constantinople, the dispersion of the Turks, the overthrow of Mahometanism, and the erection of a Russo-Greek empire on the ruins of the Porte. England aims at the defence of the Turkish empire, the maintenance of Islamism, the repression of the Greek power. Which of these two plans tends most directly to help civilization? Surely not that which seeks to prop up a system, social, religious and political, which of itself is tottering to pieces; which by universal testimony is incapable of further developement or adaptation to the demands of the present day; whose leading features are female debasement, intellectual sloth, sensual indulgence, popular ignorance: but rather that which seeks, now that Islamism has had its day, to sweep away its mouldy ruins, and to replace them by a young and vigorous social and religious system, full of sap and promise for the future, and susceptible—as is shown at St. Petersburg—of receiving the imprint of the highest forms of civilization. England misleads herself and tries to mislead others by regarding the war as a contest between herself and Russia, comparing her own institutions with those of Muscovy, and arguing as though the question to be decided by the war was whether England should become despotic or Russia liberal. This is all misconception and error. England's institutions are no more involved in the war than ours. It is Turkey, not England, that is at stake; Islamism, not Protestantism; the Sultan, not Parliament; seraglios and pashalics, not free assemblies and an unshackled press. If the allies conquer, the net result of the war will be the maintenance of the Sultan's government for a while, in the shape of an Anglo-French Protectorate, till either Abdul Medjid breaks down in spite of foreign support, or France and England quarrel, or England changes her mind on the question as she has done about the war with this country, that with Napoleon, and the character of the present Emperor of the French. If on the contrary, the Czar is ultimately successful, the net result of the war will be a Russian conquest of Turkey, the expulsion of the Turks, and either the annexation of the dominions of the Porte to Russia or their erection into a Russian protectorate with the Greek religion, like modern Greece. No one has ever supposed that the Czar intended to go any further, and to assail England at home. Common sense is too plentiful in Europe for either of the belligerents to entertain views of conquest or internal interference with each other. Turkey alone is at stake; and the argument that because England is generally more civilized than Russia, therefore the war is one of civilization against barbarism, rests upon a misapprehension of the real question at issue, and is nothing but a fallacy.

Whether the Western Powers did right or wrong in going to war with Russia is a matter for their decision, not ours. It is quite clear practically that they did so because they feared the power of Russia, and not because they cared one straw about civilization or the freedom of the Russian people. Whether the act was in itself a wise one, and well calculated to attain the end desired, may safely be questioned. Last century England thought it incumbent on her to fight her colonies: she was beaten, and now thanks Heaven it was so. Had she been successful, she would not have been nearly so great a nation as she is. At the beginning of this century, the same England thought her safety depended on her crushing Napoleon, and this time, she succeeded. The consequence has been grinding debt on her own people, and intermittent periods of tyranny and revolution on the continent ever since. On both occasions she was clearly wrong. It is quite worth inquiring whether she may not be wrong again. If Russia had been allowed to seize Turkey, the chances are very great that her ruin would have followed. Seduced by the charm of a genial climate, and habits of oriental luxury, the Russian aristocracy would have deserted St. Petersburg and Moscow for Constantinople, and in spite of all the efforts of the Czars the capital of the empire would have been removed to the shores of the Dardanelles. From that day Russia would have ceased to be a European Power. No nation has ever been transplanted with success. Removed from the snows and wilds in which the Muscovites have grown to strength and might, and settled in the gorgeous plains of Turkey, the Russian character would have lost its nerve, and would insensibly have assimilated to that of the Turk. A residence of one century and a half at Byzantium enfeebled and destroyed the Roman empire; the empire of the Czars, torn from its native home, and planted on the same soil, would inevitably have met the like fate. Nations are like individuals; half their lives are spent in search of objects which are ruinous when attained, or in trying to avert seeming dangers which are really benefits in disguise.

GOVERNOR GARDNER'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS.—While the Know Nothings of New York are languidly combatting the intrigues of Mr. Seward, those of Massachusetts have set to work vigorously to lay the axe at the root of the tree. Gov. Gardner's address to the Legislature contains the most emphatic and thorough enunciation of Know Nothing sentiment that has yet appeared in print. One or two points therein are worth notice. It is, as the Governor remarks, a most striking fact that the ruin of all republics of former ages has been brought about by the agency of foreigners. The case of the Greek republics and Rome are familiar to every student. Until the Macedonians invaded the Peloponnesus both Athens and Lacedemon were powerful and flourishing States; their downfall dates from the period when the men of Macedon found their way among them, divided their councils, and by fomenting disunion paved the way for the northern conqueror. Rome in like manner ruled the world until the fatal notion of conceding to the conquered races the rights and privileges of Roman citizens became a law of the State. Then the name—so long the dread of despots—became a byeword. When Roman citizens were found from the banks of the Ebro to the shores of the Levant, speaking half a score of languages, obeying fifty different systems of laws, and moved by constantly jarring interests, then decay began to be felt at the capital—the national vigor was gone—and there was none of Rome's pristine strength left to repel the barbarian. Precisely the same thing occurred with the Italian republics of the middle ages. Guelphs and Ghibelins, Germans and Swiss, French and Austrians invaded the little independent States of Italy, sapped the bond of union which had united the citizens of each, and dissolution and enslavement speedily followed. If anything is taught by history, it is that the first duty of the statesman is to guard, as the palladium of the State, the pure and unadulerated nationality of the people. That duty has been sadly neglected hitherto in this country. That there should be a necessity for disbanding bodies of armed foreigners marching under the German or the Irish flag in the United States—or for discountenancing the sale of the compact Irish vote or German vote at elections—argues a culpable indifference in past legislatures. The time is not past however for remedying these errors. We can still neutralize their effects by reforming our naturalization laws, and, while we encourage the advent of sober steady men who come hither to settle and amalgamate, in process of time, with ourselves, imposing heavy restrictions on the importation of paupers and convicts, and denying altogether the privileges of citizenship to those who have so disgracefully abused them.

The marked contrast between the patriotic tone of Governor Gardner and the seditious whine of Governor Clarke cannot have passed unnoticed. The former is wholly occupied with the welfare and advancement of his country, and its protection against foreigners: the latter can find nothing better to do than to excite ill feeling between two sections of the country, and preach a crusade against the South. Gov. Gardner, speaking in the hotbed of abolition, where war has been waged against slavery for forty years, not only denounces agitation on the subject, but by implication censures those who are constantly stirring up strife, and serving the designs of rival powers by trying to weaken the United States. "The dominant race," says he, "must regulate the incoming class. Such is political destiny, and history proves it." If this be true of the European, how much truer of the African? If we are bound to regulate the Irish and the Germans, how much more the negroes? How much more plainly incumbent on us to provide against the encroachments of a race numerically formidable, and unlike ourselves in mental and physical organization, in every trait of mind, heart and body, than to guard against the same danger from races whose forefathers were our own, and whose national character is only distinguished from ours by the effects of a couple of centuries of separation and different mode of living!

SECRETARY MARCY ON CITIZENSHIP.—We have seen a letter from the Premier to a distinguished Cuban gentleman, at present a resident of New York. The Secretary informs his correspondent that a declaration of intention is not a renunciation of allegiance to another Power, and "that such renunciation can only be made and accepted when [he] shall have applied for naturalization to the proper court, and shall have proved to its satisfaction [your] title thereto." This doctrine conflicts with that contained in the Koszta letter, and both are from the same source. It is a remarkable instance of the elasticity of statesmen's minds.

THE LATEST NEWS.

BY MAGNETIC AND PRINTING TELEGRAPHS.

THE SEWARD KNOW NOTHING COUNCIL.

The Southern Convention.

DEMOCRATIC SENATORS AND SECRET SOCIETIES

THE OLD VETERANS AT MOUNT VERNON.

Railroad Difficulties at Erie, &c., &c., &c.

The Seward Know Nothing State Council.

ARRIVAL OF SEWARDITES—ORGANIZATION—THE PLATFORM—COMMITTEE TO ATTEND THE LEGISLATURE—THE HERALD—DENUNCIATION OF DANIEL ULLMAN, ETC. ETC.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE OF THE NEW YORK HERALD.

SCHENECTADY, Jan. 10, 1855,

The bolting Know Nothings are in session in this quiet village, and there is considerable of a flurry in town. This morning trains commenced arriving bearing freights of faithful Sewardites, who have resolved, as a last resort, to make a desperate effort to lead off a portion of Know Nothing strength in the Legislature on a false tack. Some weeks since bolting lodges were formed here and in other places, with a view to the present convention being held in time to bring its influence to bear upon the United States Senatorial election. About one hundred members left the old lodge here, and formed a new one. There are about one hundred members present.

A. M. Clapp, of the Buffalo *Express*, who failed to get admitted into the old organization, represents Buffalo, and the other delegates are all of the same stripe.

The Convention met at 3 o'clock this afternoon, and appointed committees on permanent organization and the platform. These committees have not yet reported, but the platform which is already prepared takes broad ground in favor of free soil; declares that freemen, free soil and free speech, are the true elements of republican American principles, and distinctly adverse to principles of foreign governments. It hits the old order by declaring the determination of members not to countenance any proscription of Americans on account of devotion to freedom, and adopts the main planks of the Massachusetts Know Nothing platform.

A representative from Syracuse is chairman of the Convention.

A resolution was introduced to print a circular and send it round extensively to members of the old lodges, known to be favorable to Sewardism, but met with opposition, one member declaring it was necessary for the purpose of securing success in their present immediate object to preserve the strictest secrecy, and that Uncle Sam's postmasters were not to be trusted. The motion was lost.

A motion was also made to meet at Albany at ten o'clock to-morrow morning, but this was opposed on the ground that an incursion of so many members of the order into the Capitol would create alarm at once, and the entire plot would be blown. It was urged that the most effective method to defeat the movement against Seward, would be to appoint a committee to attend the Legislature until the election of United States Senator is disposed of. This being concurred in, the Convention adjourned at half-past eight for one hour.

They are now again in session to receive the report on permanent organization and to adopt the platform. This done the committee will be selected to attend at Albany, and the convention will adjourn to meet after the election of United States Senator.

Every attempt has been made to keep the convention private. One member during the meeting referred to the HERALD, saying that a notice had already appeared in its columns, and "There was no knowing if that sheet did not even at the present moment hear all that was going on." He was correct, for your correspondent was inwardly chuckling over his remarks.

It was given out that the meeting was composed of the Sons of Temperance, but, forgetting this ruse, several of the members, in high glee at the prospect of disorganizing the old Know Nothing party, proceeded direct to the bar of the hotel and took drinks round.

The convention meets at the room of the Young Men's Associati on.

In the course of some remarks made, Daniel Ullman was denounced by one speaker as a truckling, false-hearted political hack. Strong reinforcements of Seward men from the West accompanied the delegates and proceeded direct to Albany this afternoon.

[From the Regular News Agent.]

SCHENECTADY, Jan. 10, 1855.

A Know Nothing Convention assembled here to-day, and about one hundred and twenty-five delegates were present from various parts of the State, mainly from the central portion of it. The cities of New York, Brooklyn and Buffalo were represented.

The Convention is mostly composed of those persons who have become dissatisfied with the action of the original lodges, and the delegates are principally seceders from the old lodges and parties who failed to get admitted under a former organization, and their object now is to effect a perfect State organization, so as to counteract the political influence of the old lodges, which has been used adversely to Mr. Seward and his partisans in the State.

The convention met this afternoon and evening, and are now holding a third session. Nothing of importance has yet been done.

The Old Soldiers Visiting Mount Vernon.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10, 1855.

The old soldiers visited Mount Vernon to-day, stopping at Fort Washington on the way back. The weather was beautiful, and the soldiers were full of gayety, and were accompanied with crowds of beautiful ladies.

Daguerreotypes were taken of the different groups at the mansion, Mrs. Washington and children included, and at the tomb.

We noticed Mrs. Washington resting on the arm of an old soldier from Kentucky, the son of an officer who fought under General Washington at Yorktown.

We regret we cannot give the eloquent speeches from Mr. Wilson, the eloquent orator of the Six Nations, and from the president of the Convention.

Several speeches were also made on board the boat, the most interesting of which was by Dr. Sundown, a Seneca Indian. It was interpreted by one of his tribe. It was full of historical reminiscences, and he was frequently interrupted by outbursts of applause.

After he had concluded, General COOMBS addressed the old soldiers in behalf of the red men who once owned this beautiful country, but who now had scarcely enough of it for a graveyard. He said some of them had fought by his side, during the last war with Great Britain, with perfect self-devotion, and had shared with him in captivity and suffering. He would scorn to be the beneficiary of a government that would take everything away and give nothing in return. These Indians were poor and the government rich. He hoped his brother soldiers would contribute enough to send them home, and make the pot boil when they get there. He concluded by saying that when the great chief, Colonel George, was a brave soldier on the Niagara frontier, he was willing to take him by the hand as a brother, and he would do so now, (which he did.)

There was then an old-fashioned shaking of hands all around, which was followed by three successive war whoops on the part of the Indians.

Mr. WILSON, the Indian orator, then spoke with great emphasis and effect, and was followed by Col. Baldwin, who introduced an old colored sailor, who spun a yarn of much interest of the trials and dangers during the war.

On reaching the National Hotel, in this city, the old soldiers formed in close order, and were addressed by General Coombs, in a brief farewell speech.

Funds were then raised by the efforts of Col. Young and Col. Baldwin, to pay the expenses of the poor soldiers and Indians, and all retired to their several abodes, fatigued, but delighted with the events of the day.

The Southern Convention at New Orleans.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 8, 1855.

The great Southern Convention met here to-day. Only sixty delegates were present. Mayor Lewis was elected as the temporary Chairman, and a committee appointed to nominate permanent officers, when the convention took a recess.

On re-assembling, General Lamar, of Texas, was elected permanent President. Ten States were represented, and one hundred and twenty delegates were present, including eighty-three from Louisiana. Resolutions were offered for the improvement of the Galveston bar and harbor, and for the establishment of a marine hospital there. Adjourned until to-morrow.

From Washington.

DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE KNOW NOTHINGS—THE TARIFF BILL—THE PACIFIC RAILROAD—HEALTH OF MR. MORRIS—CONFIRMATION BY THE SENATE, ETC., ETC.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10, 1855.

The democratic Senators have had a preliminary meeting, and will shortly make a demonstration defining the position of the democracy upon the subject of secret societies for political purposes. Mr. Adams, of Mississippi, is said to be the only democratic Senator who is disinclined to take ground against these societies.

The Pacific Railroad will be the special order of the Senate till the 16th inst.

The Committee of Ways and Means will endeavor to call up, on the first opportunity, the bill reported by them at the last session, to regulate the duties on imports. This bill continues an *ad valorem* duty of a hundred per cent on liquors, &c., and establishes a scale of duties on other articles, of five, ten, fifteen and twenty per cent *ad valorem* respectively, with a free list of a few unimportant articles.

The bill recommended by the Secretary of the Treasury also continues the duty of a hundred per cent ad valorem on liquors, &c., but establishes a single rate of duty of twenty-five per cent ad valorem on all other articles, except those enumerated in an extensive free list.

Senator Norris, although not out of danger, is more comfortable to-night.

The Senate confirmed to-day the treaty with the Chippewa Indians, also the appointment of W. W. Drummond as Judge of Utah, and also of C. P. Ellis, as a postmaster in Ohio, locality not ascertained.

U. S. SUPREME COURT.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10, 1855.

Supreme Court.—No. 40, Edward M. West, plaintiff in error vs. Joseph Cochran. The argument in this cause was commenced by Mr. Ewing for the plaintiff, and continued by Mr. Hill for the defendant.

Latest from the State Capitol.

THE ROCHESTER MILLERS—PROPOSED LAWS—THE LEMMON CASE—ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMMITTEES—THE PROHIBITORY LAW, ETC., ETC.

ALBANY, Jan. 10, 1855.

Neither Senators Adam Storing, of the Chenango district, nor Zenas Clark, of the St. Lawrence, both democrats, have yet taken their seats. Both gentlemen are detained at their homes, unfortunately, by illness. These, together with the Ontario district, makes three Senatorial district, at present unrepresented.

The old claim of the Rochester millers is again being galvanized. This morning Senator Bishop presented a petition, signed by Thomas Kempshall and others, praying for an investigation of their claim against the State for using the waters of the Genesee river to feed the Erie and Chenango canals. The petitioners claim damages, which, if allowed, will amount to millions, as they allege a sustainment of injuries for many years. A struggle ensued as to which committee the subject should be referred, whether to that on claims or the one on canals, the friends of the petition desiring the former; it was referred to the committee on claims, however, by a decided vote, and will be fairly investigated by Messrs. Hopkins, Hitchcock and Williams. Whatever report these gentlemen present, will undoubtedly lay the facts fully before the Legislature and the public.

It is proposed to invest surplus funds belonging to the bank fund stock, and Mr. Sherrill has laid before the Senate this bill:—

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE BANKING DEPARTMENT TO INVEST CERTAIN SURPLUS FUNDS.

The people of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:—

Sec. 1. The Superintendent of the Bank Department is hereby authorized to invest any money in the Treasury, belonging to the Bank Fund stock, becoming due not later than the year 1859, upon such terms as he may deem for the interest of the said fund, provided said stock shall not be purchased at a price exceeding the par value thereof.

There appears to be something wrong in the action of the late barnburner Commissioners of the Land Office, in granting certain lands to an individual; and Mr. Brooks this morning introduced a joint resolution upon the subject, as follows:

Resolved, if the Assembly concur, that the Attorney General, if in his judment the public interest requires, institute proper action in the Supreme Court, for the purpose of vacating and annulling the letters patent issued under the direction of the Commissioners of the Land Office to Henry Ruggles for certain lands under water, bearing date the 8th day of July, 1852.

The numerous insurance companies will please take notice of the following bill, now pending in the Senate, introduced by Senator Spence:—

AN ACT RELATIVE TO UNCLAIMED DIVIDENDS OF INSURANCE COMPANIES.

The people of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:—

Sec. 1. Every insurance company or association for fire, marine or life risks, conducted on the mutual principle or otherwise, now or hereafter incorporated, or organized, or doing business under any general or special law of this State, on or before the first day of September next, and annually thereafter, shall cause to be published for six successive weeks, in one public newspaper printed in the county in which such company or association may be located, and in the State paper, a true and accurate statement, verified by the oath of the treasurer or presiding officer, of all dividends and interest declared and payable upon any of the stock, bonds or other evidence of indebtedness of said company or association, which, at the date of such statement, shall have remained unclaimed by any person or persons authorized to receive the same, for two years then next preceding; and the word "dividend" shall include all scrip issued or declared due for unpaid earnings or profits.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

At twelve o'clock the Senate went into executive secret session. There was scarcely any business before it—only a few unimportant nominations sent in, which were referred to respective committees. By next Wednesday some of the most lucrative nominations will be received from the executive chamber.

The Senate took up the resolution from the House, requesting the members of Congress from this State to use their endeavors in improving St. Clair Flats. Mr. Crosby, in the course of his remarks, gave the Know Nothings a "distinct rap," which was promptly replied to by Senator Whitney, who stated that the American party would encircle the whole Union, whose object was to reform the abuses which had crept in both the old parties. He spoke for a few minutes with considerable force and earnestness. It is the first time he has been called out this session. No Senator made any attempt to reply. It was otherwise at the last session.

The resolution from the House authorizing the Governor to employ counsel to assist the Attorney General in the argument of the appeal in the Lemon case, was taken up. Mr. Bishop, when the ayes and noes were ordered, remarked that he hoped every Senator would vote in the affirmative. Mr. Putnam desired information, and Mr. Bishop was about giving it, when Mr. Crosby informed the Senator from the 31st (Mr. P.) that the reasons were stated in the Governor's message; and if the Senator had read the message, he had undoubtedly seen the reasons stated. Mr. Putnam replied that he had not read that portion of it; when Senator Hopkins (always on the wing,) moved the Senate adjourn, in order that the honorable gentleman might have an opportunity to read the message. Carried, amid laughter all over the chamber.

The bill in relation to the Police Department, introduced by Mr. Stuyvesant in the House, appoints four Commissioners by the Legislature, who shall have the charge and management of all police appointments and other matter, taking from the Mayor and Common Council the authority now possessed. As several efforts made heretofore, by the Legislature, to remove Chief Matsell, have all signally failed, the friends of the new bill will probably succeed this time, because just such four commissioners will be appointed as are desired—indeed they are already selected, though their names do not appear in the bill. The time of the present Chief, by this bill, is to expire on the 1st day of next July.

After a long struggle this morning, the House finally agreed that each standing committee shall be furnished with a copy of the Revised Statutes. A large number of the honorable gentlemen desired each a copy, as part of the spoils.

The Speaker, Littlejohn, announced the committees of the House this morning. As the readers were advised several days since, the honorable Mr. Blatchford is Chairman of Ways and Means, *alias* Chancellor of the Exchequer. It will be his duty to disentangle the financial skein, and inform the Legislature how the wheels of government are to move with a bankrupt treasury.

F. W. Palmer, of Chautauque, Chairman of Commerce. Why was the commercial emporium overlooked?

William Weed, of Erie, Chairman of Canals; Jonathan Edwards, of Rensselaer, on Railroads; A. Davidson, of Albany on Banks; G. D. Williams, of Oneida, on Insurance; H. Baker, of Montgomery, on Judiciary.

The New York city members have only two chairmen, Mr. Blatchford, on Ways and Means, and Mr. A. G. Williams, on the unimportant committee of two-third bills. Mr. Coleman is a member of Trade and Commerce, and Mr. Seagrist, on Expenditures in the Executive Department.

The committee in the House on the Prohibitory law, are ready to report. There are six who will present the bill of last year, with very slight modifications. All the stringent features of the old one are retained. There is not the least softening down. Mr. Stebbins, of Monroe, the chairman, being an acute constitutional lawyer, has stricken out some features which he supposed might be pronounced unconstitutional if carried to the courts. The minority intend to present a counter report.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEW YORK STATE TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

ALBANY, Jan. 10, 1855.

The annual meeting of the New York State Temperance Society will be held in the Assembly Chamber here, on the evening of the 17th inst.

Two Thousand Dollars Voted for the Poor of New York.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 9, 1855.

The Howard Association of this city voted, to-day, the sum of two thousand dollars for the benefit of the poor of New York.

From Boston.

ESCAPE OF A FUGITIVE SLAVE—THE