AFFAIRS AT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

THIRTY-THIRD CONGRESS.

SECOND SESSION.

Senate.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14, 1855.

INDIAN RESERVATIONS AT FORT LEAVENWORTH.

A communication was received from the Secretary of War respecting the Indian reservations at Fort Leavenworth. Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

NAVY YARDS AND DOCKS.

A communication from the Secretary of the Navy, relative to the improvement of navy yards and docks. Referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

TIME OF MEETING CHANGED.

Mr. WELLER, (dem.) of Cal., then made a motion that the Senate meet during the residue of the session at 11 A. M.

THE CAPTORS OF THE BRIGS DETROIT AND CALEDONIA.

Mr. BELL, (whig) of Tenn., from the Committee on Naval Affairs, made a report, accompanied by a bill, for paying $25,000 to the captors of the British brigs Detroit and Caledonia, during the war of 1812. He then argued the propriety of the bill, and asked unanimous consent for its consideration.

On motion of Mr. HUNTER, (dem.) of Va., it was laid over.

THE TEXAN CREDITORS BILL

then came in from the House, with amendments.

Mr. RUSK, (dem.) of Texas, moved that the Senate disagree to them, and asked for a committee of conference. Agreed to.

THE INDIAN APPROPRIATION BILL, ETC.

Mr. DAWSON, (whig) of Ga., pressed the bill relating to the District of Columbia, as the special order for one o'clock to-day.

Mr. HUNTER asked the consideration of the Indian Appropriation bill.

Mr. PRATT, (whig) of Md., did not believe that the citizens of Washington had had one measure passed for their benefit during the present Congress.

Mr. GWIN, (dem.) of Cal., said he should introduce as soon as possible the Pacific Railroad bill, which was of much more consequence than appropriation bills for local matters.

A motion was now made to postpone the consideration of the Indian Appropriation bill, and take up the District of Columbia measures. Negatived by a vote of nays 28, yeas 15.

The Indian Appropriation bill was then taken up.

House of Representatives.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14, 1855.

MILITARY DEFENCES.

Mr. HUNT, (dem.) of La., reported the bill from the Committee on Military Affairs, appropriating one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars for the purchase of a site and for the erection of military defences at the termination of the Mexican Gulf Railway, Louisiana—Passed.

PRINTING PATENT OFFICE REPORTS.

Mr. MURRAY, (dem.) of N. Y., from the Committee on Printing, reported a resolution, which was passed, ordering the printing of one hundred and twenty thousand copies of the agricultural part of the report of the Commissioner of Patents for the use of the members of the House, and ten thousand for the use of the Commissioner; and also that there be printed twenty thousand copies of the mechanical part of the report, one half of which to be for the use of the members, and the other for the Commissioner.

PRINTING COM. PERRY'S JAPAN EXPEDITION REPORT.

A resolution was also passed providing for the printing of ten thousand copies of Commodore Perry's report of the Japan Expedition, for the use of the members of the House, and five hundred for that of the Commodore.

PRINTING PACIFIC RAILROAD SURVEYS.

A resolution was also passed to print ten thousand copies of the surveys for a railroad to the Pacific, including those of Col. Fremont.

THE PROPOSED INCREASE OF THE NAVY.

The SPEAKER announced the pending question to be on the adoption of the resolution closing the debate on the bill authorizing the construction of seven steam sloops of war, in five minutes after going into committee on the subject.

Mr. HOUSTON, (dem.) of Ala., moved to lay the resolution on the table.

Mr. BOCOCK, (dem.) of Va., said if the bill was not taken up now, it could not be passed. He moved the action on the resolution now as a test question.

The resolution was then tabled. Yeas 108, nays 65.

In reply to the question, as to what had become of the bill, the Speaker said it was pending in committee.

EAST FLORIDA CLAIMS.

The House then resumed the consideration of the resolution to fulfil the stipulations of the ninth article of the treaty of 1819 between the United States and Spain.

Mr. OTE, (dem.) of S. C., said that the article stipulated that the United States should cause satisfaction to be made for losses suffered by Spanish officers and subjects by the operations of the American army in Florida, previous to the acquisition of that territory. He was satisfied beyond a doubt and controversy that there was no merit in the bill. The claimants had already received doubly and trebly more than the treaty contemplated, in former years. Mr. White, delegate from Florida, said the amount could not be more than eighty or ninety thousand dollars, and yet one million fifty-two thousand and seven dollars had been paid, and now it is proposed to vote one million two hundred and eighty-one thousand three hundred and fourteen dollars additional.

Mr. STANTON, (dem.) of Tenn., replied, denying the position assumed by Mr. Orr; saying that the loose assertions of White should have no control in deciding this question. The claimants had not received more money than they were entitled to.

Mr. MAXWELL, (dem.) of Fla., advocated the bill.

On motion of Mr. JONES, (dem.) of Tenn., the bill was tabled, by a vote of 104 against 90; and the House adjourned.

Our Washington Correspondence.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13, 1855.

Another Letter from Captain Gibson.

Captain Gibson has addressed another communication to the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, in which he brings forward various proofs to establish that the alleged penitential letter recently communicated by Govers, the Dutch Minister, to Secretary Marcy, is spurious. He brings forward a letter which he did write to the Governor General of Netherlands India on the 18th Feb., 1852, somewhat resembling the alleged one in style, but expressing a very different spirit. He shows that he was constantly charged by the Dutch with pride and obstinacy, but never with a craven spirit. The Dutch Minister, Van Hall, stated in his despatch to Mr. Belmont, that Gibson was at liberty when he wrote the alleged letter; it states the same in terms; but it is manifest that he was at that time in prison. The aim of the fabricated letter is manifest:—To take away from Gibson his prestige in the East, and the sympathy of his friends in this country. The forgery is an admitted failure; and if the letter were true, it cannot invalidate Captain Gibson's claim and that of his men for their losses and sufferings, as the charge of high treason was never proven against them.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 12, 1855.

The Characteristics of Character in Washington—Chesterfield in the Capital of the Republic.

Any one who has lived much in New York must have observed the spruce, well-to-do appearance of the active, busy men who throng the streets at all hours. There is nothing seedy or seedy about them. They are living, moving, breathing evidences of the full life and prosperous energy around. How different is the case here! The avenues and public edifices are thronged with forlorn-looking individuals on the look-out for some sinecure in which they may drag on an easy, lazy existence. Coats are threadbare, hats soiled and lustreless, boots muddied, gloves (if any) dirty and gaping, cheeks unshaven, air languid and listless—enough to make an American blush. It would seem as if the refuse of the nation sought to fill its places of emolument or honor. These candidates for preferment or for spoils infest the purlieus of the capitol, and crowd the steps and doorways of the Presidential Mansion. Most melancholy, but most true. No city in the world can exhibit such deplorable squallidness. From the four quarters of the land they come. Certainly no capital ever presented so beggarly an appearance. Nor do the members of the national legislature impress one with an idea of the dignity and importance of the great country they represent. Many of them have the stamp, the unmistakable stamp of vulgarity; some of dissipation, some of recklessness and unscrupulousness. Few, comparatively few, have the bearing and manners of cultivated gentlemen. The noisy, brutal strife and eloquence of the stump appear to have been mainly instrumental in procuring the federal seat of government the honor of their presence.

A New Yorker cannot but be struck with their (I speak generally) bad taste in dress. The eternal dress coat, so characteristic of Western men, is the mode in Congress. No style of garment for day wear appears so outrageous and mal-apropos. Occasionally the eye rests upon a gentlemanly-looking member, dressed *comme il faut*. Most refreshing!

It is a pity—but we must say it—that were it not for the foreign society in Washington, we should see but little elegance. There are, it is true, some Americans in this city, as elsewhere, who excel in all the accomplishments and charms of life—men and women who detect vulgarity at a glance, and discern at once the lady or the gentleman. But, unfortunately, to most of them, a lady is a female dressed elegantly or rather expensively, and a gentleman is a man full of presumption, pretension, swagger and impudence. They do not seem to understand good breeding. Not possessing themselves refinement of manners and cultivation of mind, they know not how to estimate these attractions in others. In the political vocabulary of the members courtesy is an inadmissible word. To them, harshness, roughness, rudeness, ill-breeding, are democratic symbols—types of republicanism. One would think their favorite motto was "A gentleman cannot be a democrat." Let a man chew tobacco, wear a black dress coat, dirty shirt, and gold chain in the morning, neglect his beard, slap his companion on the shoulder, speak dictatorially, or very familiarly, and disgust the refined; he is a true democrat. Marat would, no doubt, were he living and one of our citizens, be regarded as a prominent candidate for the Presidency. Robespierre would be too much of a gentleman in these days for political distinction.

Let not Americans visit Washington with the hope of realizing any idea of the power or dignity of their country. Let them linger in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and New Orleans as long as they can, but let them shun the federal capital. I make these remarks, Mr. Editor, with sorrow. Proud of my country, I feel mortified to see the hands to whom its destinies are confided. Take away the Judges of the Supreme Court and officers of the army and navy, (the only permanent officeholders in the country,) and I see nothing in the individuals, as a mass, who control its affairs, to command admiration, and very little to warrant esteem. The men who framed the republic, its founders, were its greatest ornaments. Merit, capacity, virtue, intelligence, were then of some account. Tobacco, whiskey, dress coats in the morning, (not very important, but significant;) the stump, vulgarity and hypocrisy and buncombe new rule the nation. Decay is stamped on our apparent blooming life and vigorous prosperity. Our only hope is in some new, strong, determined national party, a foe to humbugs, political charlatans and official quacks, with the motto, "Down with dress coats and soiled shirts in the morning—non-interference by foreigners, and woe to political aspirants without merit, talents or decency."

Q.

[Correspondence of the Courier and Enquirer.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13, 1855.

Trouble with General Gadsden—The French Spoliation Bill, &c.

A despatch has been received here, that the recall of Gen. Gadsden is requested by the Mexican government, on the ground of his interfering in the internal dissensions of Mexico.

The President's intention relative to the Spoliation bill is doubtful. The Cabinet stands four to three in favor of his signing the bill.

A report is in circulation that Santa Anna has been assassinated, but it cannot be traced.

Appointments by the President,

BY AND WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE.

Thomas Welsh, of Alabama, to be receiver of public moneys at Montgomery, Alabama.

George H. Ambrose, of Oregon Territory, to be agent for the Indians in Oregon Territory.

Nathan Olney, of Oregon Territory, to be agent for the Indians in Oregon Territory.

Robert Benguerel, of Louisiana, to be register of the land office at Opelousas, Louisiana.

Charles H. Morrison, of Louisiana, to be receiver of public moneys at Ouachita, Louisiana, *vice* Peyton G. King, resigned.

Robert D. Haden, of Mississippi, to be receiver of public moneys at Columbus, Mississippi.

William L. Caldwell, of Illinois, to be receiver of public moneys at Shawneetown, Illinois, *vice* Samuel K. Casey, resigned.

THE IMPEACHMENT OF BRITISH MINISTERS.—The last mails bring us the intelligence that Lord Lyndhurst, the ex-Chancellor of England, recently got up in his place in Parliament for the purpose of moving the Legislature to an impeachment of the ministry. Perhaps it is not generally known that Lord Lyndhurst is an American by birth; but so he is, as the baptismal register of Philadelphia will attest. In that city, in the year 1769, John Singleton Copley was born. His father had been long settled in the city, and even before the Revolutionary era had grown into fame by his picture of Lord Chatham's death. In 1776 the family went to England, and John, the only son, studied at the bar, whence he arose to the woolsack, which he has occupied thrice, and which he has adorned by eloquence such as the world has scarcely ever witnessed. We are informed, through a very reliable source, that the spectacle of this venerable lawgiver, in the eighty-sixth year of his age, arising in the most illustrious assembly of Europe, to fix the work of imperial treason on the advisers of the Crown, and probably on something nearer the Crown, was really a most solemn thing. Supposing the elucidation of this war in the Crimea to be induced by Lord Lyndhurst, has not the American spirit something to do with it? In other words, would it be wonderful that a Yankee mind should revolutionize Europe?

The Ball Season.

The ninth annual ball of the "M. W. Grand Lodge of the Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York," was given on Tuesday evening, at Niblo's saloon. This Grand Lodge meets at 600 Broadway, and originated in a division on a question of representation which arose in 1849. This Grand Lodge, although very much in the minority in regard to the number of subordinate lodges under jurisdiction, numbers in its ranks some of the oldest and best masons in the State. The annual ball is given in aid of the charitable fund of the Grand Lodge, and the affair of Tuesday night must have netted a handsome sum. About seven hundred ladies and gentlemen were present, and among the company we noticed many members of the Fraternity who are not attached to lodges under this jurisdiction, which fact proves that a liberal feeling is gaining ground in the Order, and that many Masons under both Grand Lodges are desirous that the schism may be healed.

The ball was a successful and well conducted festival. The guests were received by a reception committee—Brothers C. J. Chipp, George Godfrey, J. G. Wilson, Thomas Brown, William D. Hinds, and Pinzus King. Dodworth's quadrille band played a Masonic march composed for the occasion, and the dance was commenced at about nine o'clock. At midnight an excellent supper was served, under the superintendence of Mr. Vesey. The R. W. D. G. M., Nathaniel F. Waring, of Brooklyn, presided at the supper table, and gave several appropriate sentiments, which were responded to by the guests of the grand officers.

At one o'clock dancing was resumed, and kept up until near four o'clock. But few persons present, except the grand officers, appeared in regalia; but the floor presented a brilliant appearance. There were many very pretty women at this ball, and they were all tastefully attired. The banner of the Grand Lodge was displayed in front of the orchestra. The Floor Committee, Brothers Herring, Feutchwanger, Tate, Mansfield and Tracy, performed their task with promptness and discretion. Altogether, the members of the craft under this jurisdiction have every reason to be pleased with this temporary suspension of "labor" for the purpose of "refreshment."

The annual fancy dress ball given by Monsieur and Madame Ferrero to their pupils and friends will take place to-night, at their residence, Fourteenth street. No person will be admitted unless in fancy costume.

Mardi Gras (20th instant) will be celebrated by our French residents by a grand ball at Tammany Hall. On the same night the French residents of Boston will give a ball in aid of the funds of their Benevolent Society.

Personal Intelligence.

ARRIVED.

At the St. Nicholas—J. C. Abrams, Petersburg; S. M. Hamilton, Baltimore; Capt. Sitgraves, United States Army; J. E. Pitman, Detroit; R. J. Sherman, Baltimore; George W. Tifft, Buffalo; J. G. Pickett, Tennessee; E. C. McIntosh, Albany; Calvin Phelps, California; E. C. Bancroft, Cape Vincent; R. B. Hall, Louisville; M. Castet, San Francisco; R. Nott, Kentucky; Thomas Colt, Pittsfield; R. Merrifield, Albany; H. Brouator, Rochester; H. Furness, Montreal; John G. Burnap, Saratoga Springs; P. McNulty, Watertown.

At the Prescott House—A. Adams, Adam's Express, Boston; A. Rossman, Hudson; D. Brown, Cleveland, O.; S. B. Trotter, Staten Island; W. H. Jones, Georgia; Nath Green, Connecticut.

From San Juan, Nic, in the steamship Northern Light—G B Webb, N Latham, S Ottenhomer, W G Bussey, J M Wilson, Mrs Kampfield and two children, M Castle, F Delgre, W Steinhordt, Mr Greely, Mrs Jo Nash, J Reid, H P Fish, J O Grant, J Connor, M Abreens, E Hughes, A C Blatt, D Noutman, M C Wemon, J S Thompson Mr and Mrs Berohon and three children, D W Hunt, B F Coons, J A Ruggles, S S Nevel, J Farrel, W Hoar, J Mahan, G Tayler, W Foster, J Brunchene, O Brown, C Wochutz, C Collum, D Loper, R P Culver, J S King, Z Scott, T Kelly, H L Henry, G Read, J Williams, L Harding, S Fuller, W Gait, W P Molloway, L M Norton, A Roberts, M Scanlen, S Hunter, J G Shepherd, J Sargent, M Mollett, J Peters, M Wessard, and others in the steerage.

From Key West—Capt. G. Sanford, Mr. and Mrs. . D. Greene, Mr E. Allen.

From New Orleans and Havana, in the steamship Crescent City—Mrs Finn, H D Wandle, Capt W Woodside, G W Wyer, A C Vcrars, W E Roger, R C Wood, T Blakely, A Gerard, Emelia Lanier, Capt G Mason, Joseph H Snyder, mail agent; G A Ferris, J Williamson and son, Mr Ludwig, J Erenchini—and twenty-five more.

From Charleston, in ship James Adger—Miss Hendricks, Miss Gomez, Mrs J W Valentine, Mrs A Munson, J Beinstein, E R Swafield, Edw Gould, T H Drake H L Johnson, Jacob Kapp, C Parish, J Colman, E A Duval, R Hewitt, S McLane, J Meigham, and 24 in the steerage.

A MOTHER AND THREE CHILDREN BURNED TO DEATH IN CANADA.—It is our melancholy task to mention the above sad results of an imprudent visit with a lighted candle to a garret. On Wednesday night one of the daughters of a widow named Tardif, residing with her six children in a small house at Cap Blanc, on the Cove road, went to the garret in search of something, when a spark fell from her candle and ignited a quantity of oakum lying on the floor. The mother and one of the children, aged eleven years, threw themselves upon the flames to smother them, but in vain, and the entire garret was soon in one blaze. Seeing no means of extinguishing the conflagration, and thinking they were all doomed to die, the frantic mother seized her infant from the cradle, and hugging it in her arms let herself and child fall on the floor together. The daughter, aged eleven, embraced one of her young sisters, and at once followed her mother's example. Providentially, at the same moment, a younger child, aged only three years, rushed out and alarmed the neighbors, who came in haste and drew the miserable victims from the flames. The eldest daughter, the boy of nine years, and the infant have since died of their injuries, and there exists but little hope of saving the fourth child. The mother is in an alarming condition from severe burns on the neck, arms and body, and a contusion on the head. The younger child is out of danger.—*Quebec Mercury, Feb. 10.*

IOWA LEGISLATURE.—The Legislature of Iowa adjourned on the 26th ult. They passed a law submitting the question of a constitutional convention to the people. A prohibitory liquor law was also passed, which is likewise to be submitted to the popular vote.

AFFAIRS AT THE STATE CAPITAL.

NEW YORK LEGISLATURE.

Senate.

ALBANY, Feb. 14, 1854.

The Senate then went into Executive session, after which progress was reported on the Utica and Binghampton Railroad bill. Adjourned.

Assembly.

ALBANY, Feb. 14, 1855.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS, ETC.

Mr. RICKERSON presented a petition of 7,450 adult males and females, for the right of women to the elective franchise. Also, of 5,476 adult males and females, for the just and legal rights of women.

Mr. RIDER withdrew a bill to amend the act vesting certain powers in freeholders of Jamaica.

Mr. STUYVESANT reported complete a bill to improve the supply of Croton water.

Mr. RHODES reported complete a bill for a new ward in Brooklyn.

Mr. PHELPS reported a bill to regulate the terms of the Court of Appeals:

Our Albany Correspondence.

ALBANY, Feb. 13, 1855.

More Effigy Burning—The Brothers-in-Law in Flames—Bray's Amendment to the Census Bill—Plan of the Anti-Know Nothing Campaign—The Temperance Bill Dodges.

Last evening, after the close of the session, the members of the Legislature and the citizens of Albany generally were treated to one of Sam's entertainments, without distinction of party. About half past 10 o'clock the darkness of the night was for a while dispelled by two blazing fires—one kindled on the hill in front of the Capitol, and the other opposite the office of the *Evening Journal*. In the midst of the former was seen a huge, straw stuffed figure, scorching and hissing and crackling away, until licked up by the broad tongues of flame, and reduced to a heap of blackened ashes. A large placard upon its forehead informed the spectators that this was the effigy of "The Traitor Littlejohn." The latter also consumed its "man of straw," the effigy of the Speaker's brother-in-law, the expectant of the post of Health Officer, labelled "Thompson." The burning of the two figures was witnessed by an immense concourse of people, who groaned and hooted around the flames, and bestowed marks of their attention upon Seward, Weed, and other leaders of the anti-Know Nothing crusade.

Bray Dickenson's proposed amendment to the Census bill, which contemplates taking the appointment of the Marshals, &c, from the Supervisors and Common Councils, and giving the same to the Secretary of State, excites warm debate in the Senate, but will probably be driven through. "Every little helps," and it is designed to use every possible crumb of patronage throughout the State upon those known to be opponents of the Know Nothing movement. The policy of the Seward leaders begins to show itself more undisguisedly every day. The echoes of the Albany *Journal* throughout the State, are casting aside their temporizing, timid deportment towards the order, and boldly denouncing its principles and branding all who belong to it as "Hindoos." War to the knife is the order which has issued from the captain-general's quarters, and war to the knife it will be. Fusion in every city and town where Know Nothingism has displayed its power: proscription of every man who does not openly and bitterly denounce the order; favors and pickings of all kinds, large and small, for those who will join in the hue and cry against Hindooism; these are the appliances by which the tide of Americanism is to be checked, and the flood turned once more into the slimy, stagnant pool of Sewardism.

The Temperance bill, as reported back from the committee last night, will be driven through the House with all its imperfections on its head. This you can rest assured is the policy designed for ensuring its ultimate defeat. It has been made yet more objectionable by the committee by the insertion of two additional sections which I copy in full:—

"It shall be unlawful for any person to become intoxicated, and for each offence he shall be liable to a fine of twenty-five dollars, to be sued for and recovered in the same manner as fines in the fourth section of this act, and in default of the payment thereof he shall stand committed as provided in said fourth section; provided, nevertheless, if said person shall upon said trial, or before prosecution, voluntarily testify freely, fully and fairly regarding the procurement and receipt of the liquor which produced his intoxication, the person or persons of whom, and on what terms, it was obtained or received, the time and place of such receipt, and all the circumstances regarding it, and shall appear upon the trial of the person or persons of whom he procured said liquor, if any complaint shall be entered against him, and testimony in the same manner freely, fully and fairly give said testimony, he shall be discharged from all liability for having become so intoxicated, unless procured in violation of the last clause of section 4 of this act—in which case he shall be punished as therein provided—but the testimony so given shall not, in any case, be used against him in any civil or criminal action, except upon an indictment and trial for perjury. All such fines shall be applied to the support of the poor of the city or town where the offence is committed."

"No person, company or corporation engaged in the carrying either of persons or property shall act as agent for any person for the purchase of any liquors other than those authorized by this act, to sell the same, while engaged in such carrying trade. Whoever shall violate this provision shall be liable to a penalty of one hundred dollars and three months imprisonment, as herein provided, to be sued for and recovered in the same manner as is provided for violations of section first of this act."

The bill is thus rendered as odious and as stringent as possible, and will be driven through upon the "high pressure" principle. This is designed to create opposition to it in the Senate. That body will cut it to pieces, and send back the mutilated remains at a late day of the session. The apparently warmest advocates of the present bill in the House will assume an injured and dignified air, and while pretending to fight valiantly for their bantling, will really ensure its sacrifice on the altar of political expediency. The old programme of a committee of conference will, as usual, end in smoke, and the chances are that the session will close without the passage of a prohibitory law.

DALTON.

The Know Nothings and Foreign Military Companies in New York.

The annexed memorial is being extensively circulated in this city for signature, and will be shortly presented to the State Legislature:—

TO THE HONORABLE THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK:—

The memorial of the undersigned citizens respectfully represent that they have witnessed with regret the organization of military bodies, composed entirely of persons of foreign birth, wearing the uniforms of their respective countries, and maintaining in all their operations their distinctive national characteristics; that of late years they have increased in this State to an alarming extent; and as your memorialists believe they exceed in number in the city of New York, at the present time, very considerably those of our native born; and believing such military organizations to be dangerous to the future welfare of our citizens, exposing them to the liability of adverse national sympathies and calculated to create and stimulate a much threatened opposition and hatred of the native born towards those of foreign birth, encouraging the maintenance of foreign prejudices, and tending to prevent the Americanizing of the adopted citizen, by keeping alive his alien customs and habits, contrary to the spirit of our institutions;

Your memorialists respectfully pray that a law may be enacted to disband all military organizations of foreigners, and that no such organization be formed hereafter under the laws of this State, unless at least three-fourths of its members be composed of native born citizens of the United States.

THE ASTOR HOUSE CLUB FUND.—This fund, ($296,) raised by the first ball given by the Club, has been duly appropriated for the relief of the poor. We have previously published the acknowledgements of donations from seven societies, and the receipts from the remainder are appended:—

Received, New York, Feb. 12, 1855, from the office of the NEW YORK HERALD, twenty dollars, donation of the Astor House Club ball, for the benefit of the Five Points House of Industry.
$20. L. M. PEASE.
Per M. JOHNSON.

Received, New York, Feb. 12, 1855, from the HERALD office, twenty five dollars; donation of the Astor House Club ball, for the Sisters of Mercy.
$25. EDWARD DUNIGAN & BRO.

Received, New York, Feb. 12, 1855, from the HERALD office, twenty five dollars; donation of the Astor House Club ball for the Sisters of Charity.
$25. EDWARD DUNIGAN & BRO.

Received, New York, Feb. 13, 1855, from the office of the NEW YORK HERALD, twenty dollars; appropriated by the Astor House Club ball. JAMES KELLY,
$20. For the Fourth Ward Relief Association.

Please pay to Edward L. Lynch, or order, the amount voted by the committee of the Astor House Club ball to the Five Points Mission. JULIA M. OLIN,
Treasurer of Ladies' Home Mission at the Five Points.

Received, New York, Feb. 14, 1855, from the NEW YORK HERALD office, twenty dollars, being the amount appropriated by the Astor House Club ball to the Five Points Mission. EDWARD L. LYNCH,
For Julia M. Olin, Treasurer.

Received, New York, Feb. 13, 1855, from the HERALD office, twenty-five dollars, appropriation of the Astor House Club ball.
$25. R. C. ANDERSON,
Treasurer of an Association for the Relief of Respectable Aged Indigent Females, by A. T. ANDERSON.

FROZEN TO DEATH IN RICHMOND.—A negro woman named Mason, about forty years of age, was found on Friday morning frozen to death, in a house rented by her on Main, between Twenty-first and Twenty-second streets. She was addicted to the use of ardent spirits, and when last seen the night before, she was in bed up stairs; and it is supposed she had gotten up in the night, wandered down stairs, and there laid down and froze to death.—*Richmond Enquirer, Feb. 12.*

FATHERLANDERS HAVING AN EYE TO THEIR LAGER BEER.—A petition has been presented in both branches of the New Jersey Legislature, asking the exemption of lager bier from the operations of the prohibitory law.

THE RAIN TEMPEST.

New York in a Puddle—Freshets to be Expected—The Storm Elsewhere.

The much wished for "thaw," from which we had anticipated such good effects, in the way of softening the hearts of our fair city dames towards their sighing "Valentines," has been completely overdone. It was not only a "thaw," but a regular deluge, which we experienced yesterday, and the effects, so far, have been most saddening. Ladies could not stir from the parlor fires to welcome the drenched and fatigued postman who delivered crumpled, damped, stained, and dirty looking valentines, instead of the "ducks" and "dears" and "beauties," which they expected. The little boys, who took on them to go up town with the bespangled and perfumed packages, direct from the publishers, after floundering about through miniature fresh water ponds, reached the Fifth avenue in safety, but only to hand in the most nondescript bundles, consisting of melted paper, dissolved wafers, and liquid paint. The housemaids and nurses who had been flattening their noses against the misty window panes from early morning, were called away to assist in lifting up a carpet, or bailing water from the front basement, just as "Boyd's man" was coming along, so that many of them missed getting their own valentines, and were at the same time deprived of the pleasure of knowing exactly how many he handed to Bridget who lives across the street. Altogether, it was a dreadful day for love matters, and poor Cupid looked as woe begone and bedraggled as an officer of the allied army would after a night in the trenches before Sebastopol. The sufferings of Saint Valentine himself, when beaten to death with clubs, were nothing when compared to those of a New York postman exposed to the "pelting of the pitiless rain storm" of yesterday. There is a "good time coming."

During the morning of yesterday a violent tempest of rain and wind broke on the city, and continued to rage until a late hour in the afternoon. The streets, which had been filled with snow and ice, were soon converted into great filthy puddles, and the unhappy pedestrians were compelled to wade literally knee-deep in the unpleasant slush. In many places, where the ice had become packed, and was above the level of the sidewalk, a constant stream of dirty, yellowish water kept flowing, converting the walk for a while into a gutter, full of the refuse of the street. All along Broadway, in ruts that had been cut out by the sleighing of the last few days, miniature lakes were formed, which presented very serious obstacles to all kinds of pedestrianism. It was truly pitiable to see females, generally young girls—who are compelled to attend to their work, no matter what the state of the weather—attempt to cross the street, their attention distracted by the double duty of holding an umbrella and attending to their be-draggled skirts. And so the day passed.

From the great accumulation of snow in the streets and on the housetops, serious apprehensions of damage were entertained in the city from a flood. It was feared that many cellars in the lower part of the city would be flooded and much injury result. But the rain fell in the day time, while people could see to make the necessary exertions to guard themselves against its effects. An other circumstance which contributed largely to prevent evil consequences from the flood, was the fact that under the efficient administration of Mayor Wood, the police had rigidly enforced the laws regarding the clearing the sidewalks and gutters of snow. This enabled the water to flow rapidly into the sewers.

In the absence of any action by the Commissioner of Streets and Lamps, or the street contractors, to facilitate travel, the police were employed to clear those portions of the city most used. Sergeant Munn and a squad of reserves were at work during the morning with pickaxes and crowbars removing the thick masses of ice in Broadway, below the Park. It is to be hoped that the authorities will see to it that the sewers are kept unobstructed, so as to afford no impediment to the streets being thoroughly drained.

Yesterday, by order of the Mayor, a number of men were employed to clear the snow off the roof of the City Hall. This was rendered necessary by the leaky condition of the house, as the water percolated through the ceiling into the rooms below. In the Governor's room, the Court of Common Pleas, the City Library and other apartments in the building, tubs, pails and mops were in constant use, to receive the unwelcome fluid, and prevent the rooms from flooding. Books, papers and law documents were much injured by the water. Where is the Commissioner of Repairs and Supplies?

As this storm extends over a wide extent of country, there can be no doubt but that we will soon hear of most disastrous floods and freshets. The late "cold snap" has had the effect of freezing the ground to a great depth, rendering it impervious to water, so that the rain of yesterday will remain on the surface and sweep off the accumulations of snow and ice into the rivers. We may soon expect vast masses of floating ice in the rivers and bay, as almost any rain storms at this time of the year breaks up the fields of ice above the Highlands and brings them down on the tide in great quantities. Look out for the freshets.

TELEGRAPHIC.

THE WEATHER IN PHILADELPHIA.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 14, 1855.

It commenced raining at 11 o'clock A. M. yesterday, at Wheeling; at 2 P. M. at Pittsburg, and at 4 o'clock this morning here. The snow has almost disappeared.

The ice in the Schuylkill and Delaware rivers is completely broken up and melting very fast. The water is on a level with the wharves, and apprehensions are being entertained of a disastrous freshet.

THE STORM IN BALTIMORE.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 14 1855.

Heavy rain all night, which has caused quite a freshet, and occasioned some damage. The fish market space, and the alleys adjacent, were three feet under water this morning—now subsiding. Large masses of ice were carried down by the flood, which also carried the ice out of the harbor.

AT BOSTON.

BOSTON, Feb. 14, 1855.

Heavy snow storm commenced at four o'clock.

AT PORTLAND.

PORTLAND, Feb. 14—8 P. M.

Mild, with indications of rain.

Our Pennsylvania Correspondence.

LANCASTER, Pa., Feb. 7, 1855.

Know Nothing Triumph in Lancaster—Preparations of the Naturalized Citizens—Some of them Vote for "Sam"—A Real Irish Native—His Politics—Rejoicing—Sweep in the City Council.

Yesterday was a grand day in the history of municipal affairs for this once "only democratic city." A more glorious and complete triumph never was achieved by any party than was yesterday achieved by the Know Nothings. They elected every candidate that could be elected by any one party, but one, and that one was defeated by but six of a majority. Out of forty-eight offices to be filled, to loose but one must send a glow of enthusiasm throughout the whole country, and cannot fail to inspire every lover of his country to forsake the false gods they have so long been worshiping, as the majority of the whig and democratic voters of this ancient citadel of democracy did yesterday, in spite of bribes and threats, rum, lager bier and sour-krout. Lancaster city never had such a deluge of rum and "byarish" as she had since the beginning of last week. All sorts of parties were kept up all over the city, to show how fit a man Mr. Kieffer was to be re-elected Mayor, and to put down the rascally Know Nothings. Sour-krout dinners were got up in German style. Even bung-hole dances played a conspicuous part in the programme; but all to no avail. The Americans were true to themselves and their candidates, and when the polls closed at 7 o'clock, Jacob Albright had a majority in every ward of the city, making 260 majority. It was the largest poll ever cast at a city election, there being over 2,100 votes. There were about half a dozen traitors to their party and their country, who had too much of the old bankering after the victory, which they thought would be on the side of the old fogies and "old Whitey," as has been the case for years past, and they prowled about the election polls of the city, despised and treated with cold indifference, and unable to influence a dozen "Americans" to join them in their baseness. Their harvest lay in another field—the "better citizens," with the "sweet German accent and rich Irish brogue," were for them. Even they could not in every instance be induced to join them in putting down the "d—d Know Nothings." In more than one instance did the adopted citizen come with his "heart in the right place," and ask those he knew were distributing the American ticket, for a ticket. More than one of that kind I saw voted—voted with a feeling that could not be mistaken for 'any other than that of their country and good for their children after them.

One old white haired Irishman said he never was as anxious for election day to come as for this, since he has been exercising that privilege. He wanted to cast one vote for a ticket that was composed purely of native born citizens, and not to be elected, if elected at all, by the influence of the priest and the demagogues who control the ignorant hordes of foreign voters. He asked no office for himself, and if ever his native born boys were fit for any, they would be looked to and for. But they were the people for this country, and alone were free from the influence of corrupt priests and Jesuits, whose allegiance is to the Pope and not the constitution of the United States.

After the result was made known, a procession was formed, headed by a band of music, and gave the Mayor elect a serenade, and a few rounds of cheers, and Mayor Albright made a few appropriate remarks, touching the moral effect of this victory of Americanism, and the speedy and certain overthrow of all combinations, of whatever form they may be, and wherever they may be made; thanked them for their true and steady support, and hoped to prove worthy of their confidence and esteem; after which the procession marched through the principal streets, and like good Americans went home to bed, and this morning all was quiet, and the "country safe."

The new Councils meet to organize on Friday, when the new Mayor will be inaugurated, and every vestige of the old dynasties that have had possession of our "city affairs" for the last twenty-five years, will be wiped out, and "the places that knew them will know them no more." The old city officers—from the highest to the lowest—with one or two honorable exceptions, have become an intolerable nuisance, and it will be a public blessing to turn all the "dirty birds" out. The affairs of our city government have for years been under democratic rule, managed by three or four men, and they alone knew anything about them, and what they did was too often of doubtful expediency; but it mattered not: they would allow of no investigation, and the public never got any satisfaction. Now they will know all, and I shudder for the consequences. I saw one of the old city leeches coming along the street this morning, with his head down, as if he were hunting something he had lost.

I look upon this as the greatest Know Nothing victory of 1855.

MARITIME INTELLIGENCE.

Movements of Ocean Steamers.

NAMES.	LEAVES	FOR	DATE.
Asia	Liverpool	Boston	Feb. 3
Baltic	Liverpool	New York	Feb. 10
Africa	Boston	Liverpool	Feb. 14
City of Manchester	Liverpool	Philadelphia	Feb. 14
Canada	Liverpool	Boston	Feb. 17
Crescent City	New York	Hav. and N. O.	Feb. 17
Illinois	New York	Aspinwall	Feb. 20
Atlantic	New York	Liverpool	Feb. 21
Pacific	Liverpool	New York	Feb. 21
Washington	New York	Brem'n, &c	Feb. 24
Hermann	Southampton	New York	Feb. 28

All packages and letters intended for the NEW YORK HERALD *should be sealed.*

ALMANAC FOR NEW YORK—THIS DAY.

SUN RISES.....6 54 | MOON RISES.....6 33
SUN SETS.....5 35 | HIGH WATER.....7 03

Port of New York, February 14, 1855.

CLEARED.

Ship Manhattan, Dixon, Liverpool, C H Marshall & Co.
Bark Glenburn, Nichols, Havana, C C Duncan & Co.
Bark Express, Ross, Havana, P Y King & Co.
Bark Jasper, Bennett, Charleston, Dunham & Dimon.
Brig J Guttenbury, Douglas, Santa Cruz, Teneriffe, Yates & Porterfield.
Brig Delta, Tibbets, Cardenas, H D Brookman & Co.
Brig Henry, Gilchrist, New Orleans, Snow & Burgess.
Schr Trader, Terry, St Marys, C H Pierson.
Schr L S Davis, Davis, Savannah, McCready, Mott & Co.
Schr J Darling, Terry, Apalachicola, R Post.
Schr Selon, Hosmer, Norfolk, Metcalf & Lovejoy.
Schr Monte Christo, Peckham, Philadelphia, J W McKee.
Schr T Raymond, Saunders, Philadelphia, J W McKee.

ARRIVED.

Steamship Northern Light, Tinklepaugh, San Juan, Nic, via Key West, with passengers and specie, to C Morgan. Feb 14, passed ship St Charles, bound N (from New Orleans for New York).

Steamship Crescent City, McGowan, New Orleans, Feb 5, and Havana 7th, with mdse and passengers, to M O Roberts.

Steamship James Adger