

NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR.

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Advertisements for this evening.

Read at the Theatre, Broadway, the Evening Session, Monday, February 27th.

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killing seven persons, and severely wounding several others. The vessel in tow was not slightly damaged. The tug was completely demolished by the explosion.

The Board of Ten Governors, at their meeting yesterday, passed a resolution removing from the institutions under their care all officers who are not naturalized citizens. There was considerable excitement in the Board growing out of an alleged attempt on the part of the democratic Governors, who found themselves in a majority, to confer on one of the resident physicians on Blackwell's Island the powers of a warden, thereby ensuring the appointment of a number of uneducated of the democratic faith. This excited the ire of Messrs. Duke and Smith, who threatened to leave the Board without a quorum if the resolution was not withdrawn, which was at length done. A full report of the proceedings, which were of an interesting character, especially to politicians, will be found elsewhere.

Miss Pyne, the vocalist, while performing in Philadelphia on Monday evening, fell upon the stage, and it is said, severely injured her spine. She continued the performance, however, and appeared again last evening, from which circumstance it is presumable her injuries are not as severe as at first represented. The residence of Col. Benton, at Washington, was yesterday totally destroyed by fire. The furniture and other contents were, however, rescued.

The cotton market was active yesterday, and including lots not previously reported, the sales for two days reached about 6,000 bales, about one-third to one-half of which was in transit. A large portion of the remainder was taken by domestic manufacturers, whose previous stocks had become pretty well exhausted. The market closed firm at the quotations given in another column. Flour and grain were without material change. Among the sales of flour were 2,000 bins made for export to Portugal. Wheat was scarce and high; a small lot of prime white Genesee was reported sold at \$2.00. Pork continued firm, with an upward tendency in prices. Beef and lard were also firm, with moderate transactions.

Sebastopol—A Second Moscow.

Another mail will probably bring us further accounts of the diminution of the allied army before Sebastopol. Reinforcements have ceased to sail from England; and as the British troops move from the trenches into hospital, their place is taken by Frenchmen. But though we hear less of the destruction of life among Canrobert's army, the ravages of disease have been hardly less extensive than among Lord Raglan's. The French have been better officered and better cared for, it is true; but the snows of Cherson have told as severely upon them as upon their allies. At Varna, it is said, their loss was the greatest. As to the Turks, they were disorganized and unfit for anything before they left the banks of the Danube, and are pretty certain to be demolished before they reach Sebastopol. All things considered, the question of success or failure seems now to be hardly debatable. That the expedition will prove a failure, and that the Generals will be forced to return in disgrace, is now admitted by all leading authorities in England. Whether another battle will be fought before disease destroys the remnants of the army, or whether the Russians will content themselves with leaving the elements to do their work, remains of course to be seen; but whichever course is adopted, the result must be practically the same.

What will next be done? There are many reasons for supposing that at least an effort will be made to bring about a peace. Independently of the negotiations in progress at Vienna, the party which adheres to the late Ministry—and they comprise a majority of the lords and a large proportion of the commons—are strongly in favor of peace. Very unequivocal hints to this effect were thrown out during the late session of Parliament, and as, after all, Great Britain has no army to replace the one that is perishing under the walls of Sebastopol, peace would seem to be the best thing for her that could happen. But, on the other hand, it is possible for a great power like England to declare peace under the pressure of defeat? She sent out an army, such as she never mustered before. Untold sums of money were lavished, and the processes of science ransacked, to equip it as no army had ever been equipped. Her statesmen and her newspapers boasted that the feat it would accomplish would surpass anything recorded in history. The annals of conquest were ransacked in vain for a parallel to the splendid achievements in anticipation of which the British people sang songs of triumph. Nor did the event at first give the lie to these boasts. Scarcely had the allies reached Turkey than unwonted valor seemed to be infused into the Moslem ranks, and the Russians raised the siege of Silistria. Then Austria joined the convention with the Sultan, and Gortschakoff, alarmed for his flank, was compelled to evacuate his former lines. These encouraging accidents added fuel to the fire of English exultation. But the turning point had been reached. The cholera was the first enemy, and for a long period it was absolutely impossible to embark the troops in consequence of the increased virulence of the disease at sea. When they did embark, the want of transportation, though they had seven hundred vessels, obliged them to leave much of their siege artillery and cavalry behind. The consequence was that the timid Lord Raglan had a pretext for not taking advantage of the victory of Alma, and proceeding at leisure to Sebastopol. Then more battles and more disease ravaged the ranks; and now in the month of February, the contest must be over—leaving the Russians triumphant on every point.

Can England make peace under such circumstances? It does not seem possible. For it is not in Europe that the consequences of so humiliating a step would be the most felt, though of course they would not be harmless even here; it is in Asia, from the frontier of China to the dominions of Dost Mahomed, that the defeat at Sebastopol will tell with most crushing effect. It will break the force of British prestige throughout the Eastern Continent. It will relieve the scores and scores of native tribes from the weight which has hitherto held them to the earth; and will disarm the British soldiers in India of their most formidable arm, their reputation as invincible. Over and over again the story will be told that England gathered together all her legions, joined with France, and besieged a Russian city which they were unable to take; and the consequence will be that in every one of those Eastern Courts where English and Russian envoys are now contending for the mastery, the Englishman will fall, and the Russian rise in esteem. Can England afford to run the risk of this? Can she venture, for the sake of peace, to place her whole Eastern empire and her trade to Asia in such peril as this?

It does not seem possible. All questions of public feeling apart—and there is a spirit abroad in England which a peace Ministry would find it difficult to restrain—there is a promise this evening that England can waltz herself out of the contest as she would.

ble that England can waltz herself out of the contest as she would by making peace. She has money left in abundance. She can fit out fleets after fleet, and arm after army, so far as the paying for their equipment, commissariat and soldiers' pay is concerned. She will probably endeavor, under the Foreign Enlistment bill, to raise a fresh army in a course of time, to replace the one she has lost. But can this be done? Beyond the twenty thousand Piedmontese who are secured, where on the Continent can England hire mercenaries? Prussia will not give them, nor will Austria. Switzerland has pronounced against the scheme. Spain cannot afford them. The lesser States of Germany have sent us their war material for arms. France of course requires all her sons at home, and Northern Europe without great folly could not part with theirs. Where, then, can England hire foreign soldiers? Turning homewards, the statesmen of Great Britain must see that the material for armies has left the British Isles. The operation of the free trade measures—though just and necessary—has been to feed the factories at the expense of the farms, to build up the cities at the expense of the country. An urban population never makes good soldiers. Townsman are mostly weak, sickly and small, and the first campaign takes them off. Your solid armies are country born and country fed; and of these Great Britain has scarcely a handful left. A few years ago, Scotland and Ireland contained material for a splendid army; now that same material is ploughing the earth or sowing corn in Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan and the two Canadas. Where, then, the problem recurs with increasing difficulty, where is Great Britain to find an army? What is to be done when the siege of Sebastopol is raised?

Hard Times, the Codfish Aristocracy and the Italian Opera.

The winter, from which we are just escaping, has been one of unusual severity. The poor have suffered awfully, and all persons have more or less felt the pressure of the times. The distress of the lower classes residing about the Five Points and other haunts of poverty has been in some degree relieved by soup-houses, charitable subscriptions, calico balls, and other eleemosynary shifts. The grievances of the middle classes arose from their not having money to meet their notes when they fell due, but this difficulty has been partially, and will soon be entirely removed by the liberality of the banks. There is a third class, however—a very interesting and sensitive one, which has of late been reduced to great distress, and whose sufferings have been entirely overlooked in the sympathetic and charitable movements that have distinguished our community. We allude to that select, refined, intellectual and highly ornate section of society which, in Boston, goes by the title of the codfish, and in New York, by that of the codfish aristocracy.

This small but interesting division of humanity is principally congregated in the Fifth Avenue and other neighborhoods of stylish and luxurious aspect. Nevertheless, distress has pressed more heavily upon it of late, and has been more poignantly felt than even the misery of the poorer classes. It is true that it does not exactly arise from any deficiency of food or drink, or from the difficulty of procuring elegant apparel—those things the persons in question generally possess in abundance. No, their affliction and despondency proceed from another but equally regrettable cause—the ill success that has hitherto attended their efforts to establish upon a prosperous and permanent basis that noble, intellectual and useful institution, so necessary to the progress of Western civilization—the Italian Opera.

For twenty-five years and more, strenuous efforts have been made, large sums of money squandered, and codfish sold by auction at almost any price, to bring about the accomplishment of this great work. We have had artists from Europe of the highest, most varied, and most recherché order of talent, from Garcia to Grisi, and from Jenny Lind to Albani. We have had all sorts of impresarios, too, such as, for instance, the elder Simpson, the unfortunate Palma, the never-to-be-forgotten Sanquiro, the unequalled Patti, the disconsolate Fry, the industrious Maretzek, and now we have the indomitable Ole Bull struggling in a sort of Thermopylae pass with the adverse circumstances and barbarous tastes of the times. All these brilliant talents, high European reputations and managerial abilities have lost themselves in abortive efforts to secure a permanent footing among us for this branch of lyrical art. As a matter of successful speculation, it stands precisely in the same position in which it did ten years ago. Even the present enterprise in Fourteenth Street, radiant as it was with promise, has met with almost insuperable difficulties at its outset. Ole Bull, Maretzek, Srakosch, Ulman, and Jacobsohn, are all up to their ears in a sea of annoyances and perplexities, brought upon them by their efforts in the service of the fashionables of New York. In spite of their energy, perseverance, and artistic experience, however, nothing but gloom and despondency seem still to hang over the prospects of Italian Opera.

When the Italian Opera in London, Paris, or St. Petersburg, gets into difficulty, the Queen and the aristocracy in the one, and the Emperors and their courts in the other capitals, generally come to its relief, and by subscriptions, subventions, and other timely aid, secure at once the permanence of their own amusements, and the sustentation of the artists who are dependent upon them. We have neither Queen, nor Emperor, nor Napoleon, nor Czar, for managers and artists to appeal to, under such circumstances. We are all sovereigns here, it is true, but, unfortunately, sovereigns as we are, we seem to neglect this most useful and indispensable element of modern civilization. And so the Italian Opera languishes out amongst us a sickly and spasmodic sort of existence. We have not, in short, the same bowels of compassion for the codfish aristocracy and for embarrassed managers and starving artists as for the suffering poor, the oppressed shilling seamstresses, and the unemployed mechanics who have lately had such a severe time of it. The distress of the codfish aristocracy, arising, as it does, from their ineffective efforts to accomplish so laudable and obviously essential an object as the establishment of an Italian Opera, has almost won our sympathy, and the public must not feel surprised if we should one of these days turn round and endeavor to assist them and their musical protégés, beginning with Ole Bull. The first ten days of the Opera in Irving place have been a lamentable failure, but there is a promise this evening that England can waltz herself out of the contest as she would.

Marine Affairs.

The STEAMSHIP NORTHERN LIGHT left yesterday afternoon for San Juan, Nicaragua, with a large number of passengers for California. The TRAMSHIP KNOXVILLE, Ludlow, from Savannah, arrived yesterday morning, bringing us Southern papers ahead of the mail.

Williamsburg City News.

The HOWARD BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION. The ladies of the Howard Benevolent Association, recently organized in the Eastern district, report that during the past two months they have assisted about seventy families. Expenditures—Money paid to poor women for sewing, \$16.68; money loaned, \$17; paid for reading articles from newspapers, \$13.32; paid for rent, \$18.50; provisions, \$27; shoes, \$25; various purposes, \$34.50—Total, \$152.30. There have also been distributed 600 pairs of shoes; 110 new garments, including dresses, shirts, underclothes, and other articles; and 172 second hand garments. The operations of the society are extended to persons of all religions.

expected, will enlist the attention, the sympathy, and the enthusiasm of all who, like us, feel compunctious visitings as to our neglect of that fashionable amusement.

MORE OF MR. PIERCE'S CUBAN DIPLOMACY.

Our special Washington correspondent of this morning informs us of a new and interesting discovery which he has made in the Soule and Ostend diplomacy of the administration upon the Cuba question. It is this, that the Spanish Cabinet, anxious to conciliate the United States, but having an unconquerable repugnance to treat with Soule, proposed to Mr. Pierce, not only once but twice, to transfer the negotiations upon the Cuba question from Madrid to Washington; and that Mr. Pierce declined to take the business from the hands of Soule. The result is before the world. Soule, Ostend and the filibustering policy of Dudley Mann have exploded. The administration is farther back from a settlement than on the day of Mr. Pierce's inauguration. Mr. Dodge goes out, with an interpreter, to patch up, if possible, the blunders of Soule. The net result to Dodge and Dimitry will probably be the same—their outfit, outfit and salary, deducting expenses. We can expect no more. Mr. Pierce may get ten millions as a safeguard against the contingency of a rupture; but we have nothing to fear on that score. His waltz proclivities were exhausted at Greytown. The ten millions will be useful for the Cabinet spoilsman turned adrift by the Nebraska bill and the Know Nothings; but Cuba goes over to 1856. The Chevalier Wilkof is wanted at Washington.

THE KNOW NOTHINGS—STAMPEDE AMONG THE OLD PARTIES.

The Richmond Enquirer raises a prodigious hue and cry over a publication of some curious things purporting to be the rules, regulations, principles, oaths, pains and penalties, triangular handbills, cypher, signs, grips, and other cabalistic devices of this terrible organization. Great, indeed, is the coalition against the Know Nothings. The Richmond Enquirer, the Washington Union, the Philadelphia Pennsylvanian, the New York Tribune, Post and Times, the Albany Argus and Journal, Henry A. Wise, President Pierce, Judge Douglas, Forney, Seward, Greeley, Bryant, Thurlow Weed, Captain Rynders and John Mitchell, all working might and main against the Know Nothings. But still this terrible new American party multiplies, and still the masses of the people are coming into it, convinced from the representations of all the old party hucksters and organs, that it must be the strongest side. Thus the tide rolls on, and will continue to rise until the great revolution at work is carried through in 1856. The Richmond Enquirer's discoveries will not stay the groundswell. What is to be done with the Know Nothings? We await the action of Tammany Hall.

THE GARDNER CLAIM PARTIALLY SETTLED.

The United States Circuit Court at Washington have adjudged that the Gardner claim was a fraud, and that consequently the money paid out of the Treasury to settle this claim is still the money of the United States, wherever it can be got hold of. The Court have accordingly decreed that the estate of George A. Gardner is indebted to the United States in the sum of \$428,750, with interest thereon from 16th May, 1851, and that the \$89,000 of this amount in the hands of Corcoran & Riggs must be handed over on the 4th of March. This is the beginning. But what becomes of the fat portions of this award, of twenty, forty, eighty thousand dollars, and so on, supposed to have fallen into the pockets of Messrs. Corwin, Geo. Waddy Thompson, and others? Why should the retarding stop with the deposit of Corcoran & Riggs? Is the matter to drop here? Have the Congressional Committee and the Kitchen Cabinet given it up? Who speaks for the balance outstanding of some three hundred and thirty thousand dollars, and the interest thereon?

TO OUR CONGRESSIONAL REPORTERS.

We perceive that the two houses of Congress have passed a bill for the reorganization of the personnel of the Navy; but our Congressional reporters have failed to tell us what it is. We venture to suggest to them, in behalf of the associated press, that we expect at least a statement of the substance of every important bill as passed, with the report of its final passage. Considering the pressure of business of the last two or three days of the session, a few words may suffice; but we desire at least some general explanation of the pith and substance of every important bill as passed, including a sharp look out for the amendments of the lobby. To our special reporters and correspondents we would also suggest that the tail-end of the session is like the tail of a peculiar breed of Arabian sheep—it collects more fat than all the rest of the animal. Keep a sharp eye to the spoils-men and the drafts upon Gutbrie.

CONGRESS AND THE LAND JOBBERS.

The lobby lately suffered a heavy drawback in their patent extension schemes—followed by a turn on French spoliations. But, as with a touch of bad luck, "it never rains but it pours," these disasters were followed on Monday by the unceremonious shelving of half a dozen beautiful railroad land jobbing speculations. It is now manifest that Forney overdid the business in the amendment of the Wisconsin bill of last session, after it had passed the House. He made a leap too high for the pony, and has fallen on the other side. Look sharp.

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THE LATEST NEWS.

BY MAGNETIC AND PRINTING TELEGRAPHS.

Interesting from Washington.

THE CORCORAN QUESTION—CUBA QUESTION—NEW FACTS IN MR. PIERCE'S DIPLOMACY. WASHINGTON, Feb. 27, 1855. The resolution calling for the proceedings of the Ostend Convention has been the subject of anxious debate between the President and a small portion of his Cabinet. It has been thought advisable, both on the ground of national policy and with a becoming regard for the reputation of General Pierce, to comply with the demand of the House of Representatives only so far as the matter presented shall not compromise the interests above mentioned to their disadvantage.

The position which this call originally had to encounter from Mr. Bayly, House Chairman of Foreign Relations, will be remembered, and this gentleman's several expressions of the performance of the Ostend Convention were principally in that regard. Since then Mr. Bayly has permitted the House to have its own way in the matter, and probably from the late discoveries he has made, he will have nothing further whatever to do with it. A full compliance with the call of the House is no longer thought of by the President, who has determined to hold back all the particulars that would likely prove of interest to the public at large. A clean breast would unfold secrets of too great importance, among which would be revealed the fact that under the late Spanish administration, their representative at Washington presented a letter from the Spanish government to General Pierce, empowering him to open negotiations with the United States, with a view to a final settlement of the Cuban difficulties. The presentation of this letter was made the subject of a verbal communication to the President, who informed the Minister that Mr. Soule was fully empowered to treat upon the subject. A period of over six months was permitted to pass from the first interview until a second was asked for and granted.

At this second meeting the subject was again brought forward by the Spanish Minister communicating to the President the anxiety manifested by the Spanish government to have the misunderstanding between the two nations brought to a close, the difficulties encountered in the negotiations with Mr. Soule, and the reiteration of the first request for the subject to be negotiated at Washington. A second refusal followed this demand, and the subject from that date up to the present time, has been confined principally to the Spanish government and Mr. Soule's settlement. It is not at all probable that the President could wish to see, among others, those facts given to the public, but the little that may be revealed will be sufficient to show that the blame of our difficulties remaining unsettled with Spain, has its origin and continuance in our government at Washington. In a few hours I hope to be able to communicate further upon this subject.

UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27, 1855. No. 75. Wm. Jackson, applicant, vs. Wm. W. Corcoran. Argument was concluded by Mr. Lawrence for the applicant.

No. 76. United States Executor of the relations of Everly, defendant in error, vs. A. G. Scammon, Superintendent of Public Printing. Argument commenced by Mr. Chilton for plaintiff, was continued by the Attorney General and Mr. Johnson.

The Senatorial Question in Pennsylvania.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 27, 1855. The two houses met in joint convention this morning, and resumed balloting for United States Senator, with the following result—Simon Cameron, 55; Buckalew, 23; following, 52—no choice. The above shows a slight falling off among Cameron's friends, he having had 59 votes at the previous trial. On the second balloting, Cameron had 54; Buckalew, 23; balance adjourned. On the third ballot, Cameron had 53; Buckalew, 23. A motion to adjourn till to-morrow, at 11 o'clock, was lost, 65 to 66. A motion to adjourn to the first Tuesday in October next, was then agreed to—yeas 65, nays 63.

Latest from the State Capital.

BULLNESS OF THE LEGISLATURE—THE PANAMA RAILROAD—GURCH TENURE—REMOVAL OF QUARANTINE—THE SACKETT'S HARBOR AND SARATOGA RAILROADS—REMOVAL OF THE SENATORIAL SOCIETY—RECEPTION OF GEN. HOUSTON, &c. ALBANY, Feb. 27, 1855. Legitimate legislation progresses about these days in the most respectful and deliberate manner. The excitement of the Senatorial question in the Legislature and the Temperance bill in the House having subsided, the members are engaged in matters mostly of a local character, in which the mass of the people have no particular interest. Still, on account of the dullness of the times, throwing large numbers out of employment, the galleries are daily filled with spectators.

The bill amending the charter of the Panama Railroad Company, allowing an increase of capital of two millions, was up in the Senate. There was strong opposition against it, and several amendments were proposed, restricting the company to a charge of thirty-five cents a mile on each passenger; another, compelling the company to transport freight and passengers from or to New York upon the same terms as exalted from citizens of New Granada. Both propositions were lost, and the bill was ordered to a third reading in its original shape.

The Ecclesiastical Tenure bill was further discussed by Senator Bishop, who gave an interesting history of the early practice of the Catholic church in permitting property to be held in fee, and, at the same time, a Senator has spoken against the bill, and, as things now look, it will pass by a large majority.

The House was occupied some time upon the bill to reorganize the personnel of the Navy. The report of the