THE NEW YORK HERALD.

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News from the Isthmus and West Indies.

ASPINWALL TRADE—THE PANAMA RAILROAD—DIVISION OF THE NEW GRANADA TERRITORY—NEW STATE OF PANAMA—ITS POWERS AND CONSTITUTION—ATTEMPTED MURDER OF MR. VAN RUNNELS—THE U. S. SHIP JOHN ADAMS.

The steamship Star of the South, Capt. Marks, left New York on her outward trip for Aspinwall on the 16th of March, with freight for San Francisco via Panama Railroad; arrived at Aspinwall on the 26th, and the goods placed on steamship Golden Gate, reached San Francisco in 26 days from New York; left Aspinwall 5th inst., and arrived at Kingston morning of 8th; left Kingston on the 11th, and arrived at her dock yesterday.

At Aspinwall everything is flourishing.

The Panama Railroad is completed and in fine and safe condition, the cars running daily at regular hours. The train is sufficiently strong to transport any amount of weight. A passenger says:—"We crossed to Panama and returned the following day to Aspinwall—time 4 hours each way."

The steamer brought from the Pacific side a new article to this market, viz., a lot of pearl shell, to be transhipped to London.

By this arrival we have Panama and Aspinwall news to the 5th inst.

The papers publish the act of the New Granadian Congress creating a separate State of the provinces of the Isthmus, namely, Panama, Azuero, Veraguas, and Chiriqui, under the name of the State of Panama. Its boundaries on the west are those between New Granada and Costa Rica, and a future law is to define the limits which will separate it from the rest of the territory of the republic.

The new State may freely enact that which is permitted by its own constitution, except in the following instances, in which it is declared to depend upon New Granada:—

1. Everything relative to foreign affairs.
2. The organization and service of the standing army and naval affairs.
3. National credit.
4. Naturalization of foreigners.
5. National receipts and disbursements.
6. The use of the flag and arms of the republic.
7. All relative to the waste lands that the nation reserves to itself.
8. Weights and measures.

The Assamby of the new State is to consist of thirty-one members, to be appointed as follows:—

	Inhabitants.	Deputies.
Chiriqui	17,279	4
Panama	67,164	15
Veraguas	53,665	12
Total	138,108	31

An attempt was made to murder Mr. Ran Runnels in the streets of Panama on the 31st of March, of which we find the following account in a letter in the Aspinwall *Courier*:—

On Sunday night, Mr. Runnels was going home with two friends, Messrs. Fery and Don Pedro Icasa, and on reaching the corner of Main street, on the east side of the Plaza, where Mr. Fery's store is situated, the two latter gentlemen passed a few steps beyond the corner, and stood conversing at the main entrance of Mr Fery's building, while Mr. R. stood at the aforesaid corner.

Mr. R. heard something which sounded like balls strike the walls of the house behind him, just above his head, and in the same instant a perfect blaze of fire emitted from a weapon in the hands of some person standing at the cross on the northwest corner of the Cathedral plaza. He called to his friends and rushed towards the spot, where he was soon followed by several citizens who had been aroused by the noise of the report.

Thence, they pursued the chase through several streets, but did not succeed in finding any traces of the villain within the city. Mr. R. then mustered his men and went to the dwelling of one of Saltillo's relatives, and there and elsewhere ascertained that Saltillo had been hidden in the mountains for several days, and that he was determined upon executing his threat to murder Ran Runnels and others, &c., &c. He should, and will be, taken, dead or alive. We heard it stated that a large reward has been offered for him.

This Saltillo is said to be a notorious highway robber, and leader of a gang of desperadoes, whose operations had been interfered with by the Runnels guard.

The U. S sloop-of-war John Adams arrived again at Panama on the 2d of April.

The bark Serena arrived at Panama on the 31st of March, with a cargo of Chile coals.

THE WEST INDIES.

The news from Kingston (Jam.) is dated to the 11th inst. In reply to some strictures on the apathy exhibited in Jamaica with regard to the collection of the English patriotic fund, the *Morning Journal* says:—The inhabitants of Jamaica are steeped in poverty—a large portion, pinched by want, are steeped in misery; thousands are crying for assistance of food; and in several districts distant from market places, hundreds have to subsist upon the young bamboos, and to dig up and clutch any wild root or other spontaneous production to support life. This may appear an exaggerated, but nevertheless, it is a true picture.

The Legislature was prorogued on the 10th.

The Governor in his speech stated that there is now every reason to hope the income of the island will equal the expenditure; and that with this step towards the removal of financial embarrassments, the future prospects of the island are improving.

J. O W. McCartney, a native of Jamaica, has written to the Kingston *Journal* from Bendigo Digging, Australia, advising his countrymen to remain at home. Murders, robberies, and drunkenness were of daily occurrence at the mines—according to his report.

A committee of the Jamaica Society of Arts had reported favorable progress.

The Kingston Methodists had a tea meeting on the 11th instant, in order to raise a fund to liquidate a church debt. It was well attended.

The Judge of Assize at Surry, lately sentenced Edward Stuart (a black boy) to be imprisoned for twelve months (for a petit larceny) in jail, and to receive twenty-four lashes on his entrance and twenty four lashes a month during the year.

Stewart Aiken, an old, destitute, but free colored man, lately died in the parish of Port Antonio of starvation and neglect. He lay exposed in a dying condition in a piazza until he literally rotted away and worms an inch long crept from his sores. The church warden during all this time gave him the sum of three shillings A coroner's jury found that "a legal responsibility for loss of life rested on somebody."

The local journals strongly advocate the repeal of the duty levied by the United States on foreign sugars.

The House of Assembly has recorded its opinion that the paper circulation of the island should, so soon as circumstances will admit of the alteration, be confined altogether to a treasury issue.

MARKETS.

KINGSTON, (Jam.), April 10.—Since our last issue business has been very quiet, with only a moderate demand for fish and breadstuffs. Importations continue much in excess of consumption, and unless our importers remain inactive for some time, the heavy accumulating stocks must materially depress the value of goods. This latter remark applies to every description of provision.

OUR PORT OF SPAIN CORRESPONDENCE.

PORT OF SPAIN, March 13, 1855.

Over Importation—Excessive Shipments from the United States—Good Supplies from Barbadoes—Market Rates.

We have had within the two past weeks a very large addition from the United States to our already overstocked and glutted market. It appears that the shippers of these cargoes in the United States forget the size of our island, its population and its resources. We have received this year sufficient American provisions, grain and flour to supply a market five times larger.

Barbadoes being in a similar condition, is relieving itself by sending flour and corn meal to supply us. Without a barrel of direct importation of the latter article, we are actually at a loss to know what to do with it, and it is being exported again to the small islands in our neighborhood.

Flour is $10 per bbl—heavy supply. Corn meal, no sale; corn, in two bushel bags $2; butter, $4 per 25 lbs.; lard, 14c; peas, $2 per bag; rice, Carolina, $5 per 100 lbs.; 2 large cargoes of East India, first in from Calcutta. Tobacco, $18. Mess pork, $17. Beef, family, $11 per half bbls. Oil meal, $18, wanted, stock light. Hay, $1 50 per 100 lbs; heavy supply. R. O. staves, large stock, no sales lately. P. P. lumber not wanted. The above are duty paid prices, in small lots; dealers buy very sparingly, anticipating lower prices.

The weather is bad for shipping produce, and sugars are very low—$2 50 to $2 55 per 100 lbs.—ruination to the planters; it cost $3 to make it. English tonnage in port, 8,876 tons. PLANTER.

MARKETS.

BARBADOES, March 25, 1855.

We beg to hand you a glance at our market. Business is very dull. Arrivals from the United States have been more frequent than agreeable to holders of American produce; several vessels have touched and passed on, we fear to find worse markets than our own, especially for corn meal, as we hear from Leeward that it can hardly be given away:—

Flour, $11; corn meal $4 50 to $4 75, nominal; yellow corn is wanted, at $2 50 per bag; S. E. peas, $2 50; rice, Carolina, $5 50, supply light; crackers, Wattson's, $5 50, moving; prime pork, $14; butter, 18c.; lard, 16c.; oil meal $14, nominal; lumber, P. P. not wanted, last sale $25; staves, R. O., Norfolk inspection, last sale $50 for superior, supply on hand for the season.

The island is healthy. H.

MOVEMENT OF THE TROOPS OF THE SIOUX EXPEDITION.—The steamer Sonora left yesterday afternoon for Fort Leavenworth. She had on board a considerable detachment of the United States army, officered as follows:—

Captain Todd, 6th Infantry, commanding grenadiers and detachment.

Lieut. Mercer, with grenadiers, eighty rank and file.

Capt. Foote, commanding company C, 6th Infantry, eighty rank and file.

Lieut Carlin, 6th Infantry, in command of fifty regimental recruits.

This detachment forms a part of the "Sioux Expedition," and will, it is understood, be stationed at Fort Kearney.—*St. Louis Republican, April 17.*

Court Calendar—This Day.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS—Part 1st.—Adjourned to the 30th April. Part 2d.—No. 62.

The other Courts—Motions and decisions.

Items Translated from our French Files.

It seems that it is a great mistake to believe that the Chinese revolutionists either profess or are actuated by the precepts of the Christian religion. A young Chinaman, who recently arrived at Nantes—one of those who came to Europe to finish their ecclesiastical studies—writes from Naples to the Superior of the Grand Seminary at Nantes, a letter, in which he says:—The Empire of China is, at this moment, throughout its whole extent, like a great sea tossed with winds and tempests, and is becoming daily more agitated. The Tartar family which occupies the throne must soon be upset, and witness the close of its domination. Nothing can stop the revolutionary progress of the insurgents—neither laws, discipline, nor the Emperor's forces. War rages on every point of the territory. Everywhere are seen murders and robberies. Add to that, famine, misery, inundations, earthquakes, and you have an idea of the calamities which weigh upon China. Here is an incident which has occurred in the province of Nankin. A young Christian, named Mathew Xe, of Janchau, near Nankin, who had formerly studied at the seminary of that city, fell, with his brother, into the hands of the rebels. They wished to constrain them to adore the Milky Way, as these idolaters themselves do—for that is the god whose aid they expect. The young Christians courageously refused, and did not hesitate to confess the truth of our holy religion. On their first refusal they were put to various tortures. But as the two brothers persevered intrepidly in their faith, those monsters hung them on a gallows, opened their bellies, and with their hands tore out the palpitating entrails of their victims. Many Christians, he adds, have had to suffer from the invasion. Despoiled of their property, some have been made slaves, others hunted and reduced to mendicancy, and others pitilessly murdered. So much for the Christianity of the Chinese rebels.

The inauguration of the railroad from Madrid to Albacete—a considerable section of the general line which is to unite the Spanish capital to one of the best ports of the Mediterranean—took place with due *éclat* on the 18th of March. Members of the government, of the Cortes, of the national militia, and of the press, accompanied the expedition.

From experiments made in bakeries at Doula and Cambrai it appears that the yeast of the beet root, used only in the proportion of half the quantity of the yeast made from hops, produces the same result.

A statue to the famous Joan of Arc has been commenced in Loiret, France.

The Parisian builders have been availing themselves of the rise in the waters of the Seine to bring into the French capital great numbers of immense pine trees—used for scaffolding, &c.—which are cut on the summit of the Alps, near Schaffhouse, placed on a slide, by which they fall into the flood, which conveys them to the canal of the Rhine, of which the mouth is at Huningen Thence they are brought from canal to canal, and from river to river, till they reach Paris Thirty years ago the forests where these pine trees grow were known only to tourists.

The prison of the Conciergerie, at Paris, is about to be altered so as to adapt it to the solitary confinement system.

A large number of silk weavers, lace makers, and glovers, lately emigrated from Lyons, France, to California. They could not find employment there, and have lately returned home in great distress.

M Manieri, a Catholic priest, and formerly a chaplain in Garibaldi's corps, was lately tried in Genoa on a charge of poisoning another priest, Baltaro, in 1853. Arsenic, copper and antimony, were found in the stomach of the deceased. Manieri had often presented him with segars, and it was supposed that they were made the vehicles of the poisons. Manieri was acquitted for want of proof of any cause for hatred or envy of Baltaro.

A Paris paper (*Galignani's Messenger*) says, that on the 17th of October last, the Redan tower at Sebastopol had only sixty guns mounted, and that on the 16th of March, 1855, it showed two hundred; the Malakoff tower had seventy guns then instead of twenty-five, and the Flagstaff battery had one hundred and forty guns instead of the sixty which it presented at the commencement of the siege.

The Paris *Pays* tells the following story of real life:—Edward L——, a medical student in Paris, had made the acquaintance of a young working girl named Juliette, who, besides an uncommon beauty, possessed a reserve and a distinguished deportment, not frequently to be met with in persons of her class. Juliette had bestowed her heart on the young student, only under the promise that a legitimate union would come bye and bye, to consecrate the oaths which she had received. Edward might have been in earnest in making these promises, but the arrival of his father in Paris changed the face of things, and yielding to his positive injunctions, he had to cease his visits to Juliette. After vain attempts to change the father's resolution, poor Juliette saw no other resource than suicide. She accordingly threw herself into the Seine, a short distance from the bridge of Arts Two workmen, seeing

"This once more unfortunate, weary of breath,
Rashly unfortunate, rush to her death,"

plunged in after her, and succeeded in rescuing her. Whilst the poor girl was being brought to the office of the Chief Sluice keeper, the father of Edward, who is a Doctor at Orleans, was, by a singular chance, passing by. Seeing the crowd collected on the quays, he went over, and having learned that a young girl had been taken out of the water, he hastened to offer his services. When Juliette—returned to consciousness—told him of the reason which made her attempt suicide, Mr. L., touched with that love which was ready ever to sacrifice life, awakened hope in her heart by a few words, which have contributed not a little to the prompt recovery of the young *Ouvrier*.

At one of the cattle markets in the environ of Paris, one of the light fingered gentry of that capital recently victimized a gentleman from the rural districts in quite a novel and masterly style. There was a crowd gathered round the exhibition of a monstrosity of some kind. Among the attentive spectators was a countryman, evidently well to do in the world, and beside him an elegantly dressed young man. The latter having looked at the countryman with a certain persistancy drew him aside and said to him roughly—"Sir, I saw you: but you are perhaps the father of a family, and I do not wish to have you hanged; return what you have taken from me and go about your business." "I don't know what you mean," replied the countryman, much troubled. "I am an honest man, and I have never taken anything from anybody." "It is useless to lie, sir; I repeat that I have seen you, and I am sure that you have my portmonnaie about you." "Your portmonnaie! search me, sir; I demand it" After having appeared to hesitate some minutes, the dandy put his hand into the pockets of the round vest and into the pantaloons fob of the other. After this rapid exploration, he cried out, "I have made a mistake—the thief was doubtless my right-hand neighbor, I recollect now that he was very near me," and he stammered out excuses; then pretending a pressing matter of business, he rapidly went away. While still annoyed at this scene, the countryman, who was a dealer in sheep, had resumed the road to his inn, when desiring to know the hour, he found that his gold watch and his leather purse, containing a pretty round sum, had disappeared, and he then discovered that he had been made the dupe of a scene played by a skillful thief.

A quantity of heavy pieces of cannon, with bombs, arm-chests and ordnance stores, has been recently shipped from Antwerp, in the Belgian brig Antwerpia, to Vera Cruz, by order and for the use of the Mexican government.

Two physicians of Paris have published a very important memoir, the object of which is to make known the immense resources which the healing art may draw from the seed of parsley. This common indigenous plant possesses incontestable febrifuge properties; the decoction of its seed may be substituted for that of cinchona, and the active principle which has been drawn from it, and which they design under the name of apiol, is equivalent to quinine in the treatment of the local intermittent fevers.

An employé on the railroad between Paris and Havre has been recently tried, convicted and sentenced to ten years' imprisonment, for the robbery of a package containing bills and specie to the amount of 100,000 francs. The package was abstracted from a baggage car on the route. The question was raised on the trial whether the article 383 of the penal code, which aggravates the offence if the robbery be committed on a highway, applied to a railroad. The prosecuting attorney held to the affirmative of the proposition, and the counsel for the defence to the negative. The latter opinion was adopted by the jury.

A bas-relief in white marble, representing Esculapius attending a patient, has been discovered at Cyrica, in Asia Minor, and brought to the Louvre.

The French government has appointed a commission to inspect the libraries of Constantinople.

A mixed commission—consisting of general officers and of functionaries belonging to the War and Navy departments—has been instituted by the French Minister of War, for the purpose of proceeding to the appropriation of the $50,000, representing half the sum voted by the Canadian Parliament for the relief of the widows and orphans of the soldiers of the allied armies who were killed at the battle of the Alma, and which sum the Queen of England had placed at the disposal of the French government. The Count de Rue, General of Division, is president of the commission.

There is at present in the hospital of the Roule, at Paris, a grenadier sergeant of the 59th regiment of the line, named Tourvielle, who has become both deaf and dumb in consequence of the sensation produced upon him by the explosion of a bomb-shell within a few feet of him in the trenches at Sebastopol. His recovery seems uncertain.

The French government has insured the articles to be sent to the Paris Exhibition for the sum of $2,000,000, reserving to itself the right to increase the insurance. It has also insured the Palace of Industry for $1,400,000.

We find in the "Annals du Bien" the following characteristic story of French Sisters of Mercy in Constantinople:—A Musulman, of the lower class, had been condemned to death for an offence which would appear in France not to be very grave, but which justice, sometimes summary, punishes with death in Turkey. The convict was the father of eight children. The Sisters learned and were moved by the fact. This man cannot be allowed to die, said they; he must be saved. But how? A direct appeal to the Sultan appeared the shortest as well as the surest way. To demand an audience, said they, is the only means. And two Sisters proceeded to the palace, where their presence must have appeared very strange; the demand for an audience met more than one difficulty, which they overcame. At length the Sisters are introduced to the Sultan, whom they find smoking, in the Turkish fashion, the narguille, in a sparkling tube. Abdul-Medjid is a man of high mind, and in whom grace of manner is added to dignity. They explain to the Sultan the object of their desire, and he listened to them with smiles and affability. "I grant his pardon," said he; "could I refuse anything to the secret zeal which puts such sentiments into the heart? It is a beautiful thing, that religion which inspires, O holy ladies, a devotion like yours. You bless that religion and bless this generous France. Please to follow this officer, (indicating one)—he will lead you to the prison; and you will have the pleasure of freeing your protege with your own hands, to restore him to his family." And as they were withdrawing, softened to tears, and endeavoring to thank him, he added, "Do not forget the way to this palace; every time you may have anything to ask from me, do not be afraid; all the doors will be open to you—to you the Angels of Mercy."

The Central American Expedition.

Col. Kinney, it is now said, has at length succeeded in fitting out an expedition for Central America, and he and his band of emigrants will soon sail for their new homes. The emigrants are armed and equipped as the adventure requires. The steamship United States now lying at the foot of Eighth street, East river, is the vessel selected for carrying out the colonists, and will sail on the 7th day of May next. This is a vessel of great speed, having recently made a trip from Havana to New York in three days and twenty-three hours, the best time on record between those ports. She is sharpbuilt, is of about 1,600 tons burden, and can comfortably accommodate between five and six hundred passengers, about the number that are engaged to sail with Col Kinney. The steamship will sail direct for San Juan de Nicaragua. The whole expedition is under the direct command of Col. Kinney, but accompanying him on his expedition, and sharing with him the dangers and advantages of his enterprise, will be Mr. Fabens, late United States Consul to San Juan, and Mr. Fletcher Webster.

The colonists will not settle, as originally intended, at San Juan and in its vicinity, but will pitch upon the table lands of the Chontelas district, upon the San Juan river, and near the Lake Nicaragua. These lands are owned by Mr. Fabens, whose title, we believe, is not disputed by the government of that Territory. Senor Marcoleta, Minister for Nicaragua at Washington, himself admits the legality of Mr. Fabens' title to a large tract of country in this district; so there can be no difficulty about the right of possession, as was apprehended by the friends of the original expedition, intending, as it did, to commence operations under a grant from the Mosquito King. This Chontelas district is represented to be a very healthy, elevated country, and abounding with coal and gold. The land is said to be fertile, and within the possessions of Mr. Fabens are extensive forests of mahogany. The attention of the settlement, therefore, will be given to mining, to agriculture and the exportation of mahogany, each of which pursuits, from the accounts of the leaders of the expedition, promises to be profitable.

Dr. Baird's Lecture—The Last of the Course.

The Rev. Dr. Baird finished the last of his course of lectures before the Spingler Institute, last night. Notwithstanding the rain of the day and the muddy streets, there were present a good attendance of both ladies and gentlemen. The subject of last evening's lecture was "England and Ireland."

The reverend lecturer opened his discourse with a description of the natural appearances of the three provinces of the British empire—England, Ireland and Scotland. England was a garden spot; Scotland was much cultivated, and Ireland was, indeed, in natural beauty, the first gem of the sea. He was not surprised that the Irish people were so proud of her. The lecturer next recounted the wars of England, and devoted much time to the period of Oliver Cromwell. He thought Cromwell had the most wonderful army of all which we have any account in history. It existed for twenty years, and never was defeated. It went all over the empire, conquering everywhere alike. The lecturer next turned to the character of the English monarchs. Charles the Second was the most worthless creature that ever sat upon a throne. George the Fourth only approximated him. England had been blessed with some good rulers and some very bad ones. Queen Victoria, however, was an excellent sovereign. He dwelt at considerable length on London—its public buildings, institutions of learning, great works of public improvement, and the various features by which it is distinguished. Its population at present, he said, was over two millions, and he had no doubt whatever that at the end of the present century it would amount to four millions. The peculiarities of the Londoners, or Cockneys, furnished an opportunity for some pleasantries, and those in regard to their pronunciation afforded considerable amusement to the audience. They had, he remarked, a faculty for abbreviating long words, and sometimes short ones. Thus, a cabriolet they called a cab; an omnibus, a bus; the Thames, the Tems, and so on. Among the many great advantages which London possessed he noticed their parks particularly, in which American cities generally, and New York especially, are so deficient He did not agree with those who think that England had seen her palmiest days, and that the disasters which she had suffered in the Crimea had hastened her decline. In his opinion she had not yet reached the height of her power. She had, he acknowledged, cut rather a poor figure latterly in her warlike relations; but it was time for her to understand that her power hereafter was not to be maintained by the sword, but by the moral influence which she should exercise by her commerce, her money, and through her colonies. She has repeatedly plunged into wars on the continent that she might have avoided, and the present one in which she is engaged has cost her an immense amount of treasure, and the lives of many of her best and bravest. He expressed the hope that peace would be established, and he believed that in the course of a few weeks he would see a long list of the most prominent men in England in favor of it. There was a prospect of the war terminating with the allies obtaining three of the propositions, and he believed that they would be very successful in their negotiations in the three Principalities to the north of the Danube would be put under the joint protection of the five great Christian Powers of Europe, and a protectorate established over the Christians in the Turkish dominions.

In a religious point of view, England is improving, and great moral reforms are agitating the people with every prospect of success. For education she had done much, as proved by the numerous colleges and institutions of learning which were scattered throughout the country; and in the sciences she presented a galaxy of great names. Yet, in every branch of science and knowledge we can, he said, mention some who are equal to her greatest; but the difference is that we have only one to their ten. Among the masses of the people in England there was too much deference paid to rank—in fact rank, wealth and fashion are the great idols of the nation. They are continually courting and looking up to the nobility, and appear to think that nothing can be accomplished without their patronage. He condemned the practice of allowing commissions to be purchased in the army as having a tendency to demoralize and break up that effective discipline which can only exist where merit and services are the passports to distinction. In patriotism, however, they were not wanting, and in this he thought they were superior to Americans, who were willing to sacrifice too much to party spirit. Their orators were not equal to ours, and he had heard the most distinguished of both countries. Clay, Calhoun, Webster, and many others, he considered superior to their best. The greatest speaker of whom they could now boast was a minister of the established church—Mr. Hugh McNeil. In this connection he referred to the great orators which Ireland produced—Curran, Grattan and O'Connell, the last of whom, however, he regarded as inferior to either of the first. At the conclusion of his remarks, he said he would deliver a supplementary lecture on Monday evening, when he would refer to the other countries of Europe which were not embraced in the course.

Our Chartered Rights.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

There is a principle involved in the late act of the Legislature, commonly called the Liquor law, which directly invades the chartered rights of the city, as thus:—

By Governor Dongan's charter, of 1686, power was granted to the Mayor to license "all tavern keepers, inn keepers, ordinary keepers, victuallers, and all public sellers of wine, strong waters, cider, beer, or any other sorts of liquors by retail within the city."

Governor Montgomerie, by charter, in 1730, give power to the Mayor "to grant licences to keep a tavern, inn, ordinary, or victualling house, and to sell wine, brandy, rum, strong waters, cider, beer, ale, or any other sort of excisable or strong liquors within the city."

These charters were confirmed by the Legislature immediately after the Revolution, and by the constitution of 1777 and of 1821.

Nor has the right thus conferred been restricted by any amendments to the charter; it is simply explained by the Act of 12th April, 1853, in conforming the power to be exercised to the new arrangement of the Common Council: "The power now vested in the Mayor, Aldermen and Assistant Aldermen, in granting and revoking tavern licenses, together with all other powers as excise commissioners, shall be hereafter vested in the Mayor, with the Alderman and Councilman representing the district in which the premises of the party licensed or to be licensed may be located."

It is thus a question of right and franchise, and one upon which the ferry privileges, the establishment of markets, and the possession of real estate, equally rests. Are we to hold none, save at the will and pleasure of the Humbuggians? B.

The Storm.

[From the Lockport Courier, April 18.]

We learn that the gale of this morning visited the town of Porter about 7 o'clock, doing considerable damage to houses, barns, orchards, &c. Mr. McKnight, Mr. Henry and Mr. Loyd are large sufferers.

The brick house at Ft. Niagara is unroofed, and the locomotive car works at Niagara, C. W., are seriously damaged.

The Turf.

UNION COURSE, L. I.—TROTTING.

The trotting season has now fairly commenced, the weather being delightfully suited for such sports. The country has begun at length to show a springlike appearance, and the green grass is shooting forth in every field. The spring is uncommonly backward, but in the course of a few days we may expect to see the lilacs, snowballs, and other flowers in full bloom, and then the rush to the country will commence.

At the Union Course, on Thursday afternoon, a most exciting and finely contested race came off for a purse, mile heats, best three in five, in harness. Five horses were entered, four of which came to the post and started for the prize, viz.: r. g. May Fly, g. g. Union; b. m. Angeline, and b. g. Jim. Grey gelding M. D. Greene was entered, but getting out of condition, did not appear. Union, driven by Hiram Woodruff, was the favorite previous to the start, at 100 to 50 against the field, but proving a dunghill, his backers suffered severely. He had speed enough to win, but lacked the game that all good horses possess. Angeline came to the score first on the first heat, yet was distanced in consequence of her driver not bringing out the requisite weight, 145 lbs. Jim was also distanced.

First Heat.—Angeline having won the inside, took the lead at the start, and went to the quarter pole in forty-one seconds, a length ahead of May Fly, Union third, Jim half a dozen lengths behind. The mare opened the gap a little down the backstretch, passing the half mile pole a couple of lengths ahead of May Fly and Union. On the lower turn, they were all in a heap, and swung on the homestretch together. It was anybody's race to the drawgate—then Union fell to pieces, and Angeline and May Fly had a struggle to the score—the former winning by a short half length. The distance flag fell in the face of Jim. Time, 2:44. The drivers being called to the scale, the one who handled the mare was found to be two pound short, and the heat was declared in favor of May Fly.

Second Heat.—May Fly and Union, the only two now left in the race, came up for the word at a rapid rate, the gray outspeeding the roan, and taking the inside before they got around the turn. He was four or five lengths ahead at the quarter pole, in forty-one seconds, and forty yards ahead at the half, in 1:19, the roan having broken up on the backstretch. The gray was now taken in hand, and nursed gently to the score, winning by a few lengths, in 2:46.

Third Heat.—The gray took the lead again, but broke up before he made the turn, and the roan dashed on four or five lengths ahead to the quarter pole, in forty-one seconds. On the backstretch, the speed of the gray was brought out, and he closed up nicely, the roan passing the half an open length only in front, in 1:20. On the lower turn, the gray lapped the roan, and swung on the homestretch in a winning position; but the worthless brute gave up the struggle as soon as he got in front, and the roan came in a winner by half a dozen lengths, in 2:42.

Fourth Heat.—The gray, as usual, exhibited great speed, leading the roan three or four lengths to the quarter pole, and then breaking up while in hand, fell in the rear three or four lengths—then again going up to the roan, and while winning nicely, again breaking up, thus throwing the race away. May Fly won by half a dozen lengths, in 2:42. The quarter was made in forty seconds, the half in 1:20. The following is a summary:—

UNION COURSE, L. I.—THURSDAY, April 19.—Trotting purse, $50, mile heats, best three in five, in harness.

Isaac Woodruff entered r. g. May Fly	1	2	1
Hiram Woodruff entered g. g. Union	2	1	2
Mr. Vogel entered b. m. Angeline	dis.		
W. Peabody entered b. g. Jim	dis.		
D. Pfifer entered g. g. M. D. Greene	drawn.		

Time, 2:44—2:46—2:42—2:42.

RED HOUSE, HARLEM—TROTTING.

On Thursday morning, a trotting match for two hundred dollars came off at the Red House, between Mr. Irvin's brown Mambrino gelding Wm. A. Browne, and Mr. Shute's blue gelding Blue Morgan. The race throughout was well contested, and the time made the best ever known on that track. The course was very heavy—fetlock deep in places, with sand, clay, and water, which, together with the short turns on a half mile track, makes 2.42—the time of the last heat—as good as 2:30 on the Centreville. Three heats were trotted—Mr. Irvin winning the first, Mr. Shute the second, and Mr. Irvin the third and last. The Mambrino led throughout the first heat in 2:47. On the second heat, while leading, he slipped in the mud, and came very near falling. Morgan passed him, and won the heat in 2:46. On the third heat, the Mambrino took the lead, and was never headed, winning by three or four lengths, in 2:42. Mr. Irvin then named his horse after the proprietor of the Red House, and offered to match him against any horse for $1,000, mile heats, over the Red House track, in two days from that time. He is a very large, powerful horse, about seventeen hands high, of fine proportions, style and action. Blue Morgan has been very unfortunate in his races, being always overmatched by his owner. He is a fast horse at times; but a reliable 2:40 horse will always beat him, notwithstanding that he has made a heat in 2:33. What added to the interest of this race was the trial of skill between the drivers—Irvin being an amateur, and Shute a professional driver. Great dexterity was manifested by both parties in the handling of the ribbons, and Irvin gave promise of becoming a Woodruff in time. One item of advantage to sportsmen is, that all trotting matches at the Red House can be witnessed gratuitously, there being no charge for entrance to the grounds.

The following is the summary:—

RED HOUSE, HARLEM—THURSDAY, April 19.—Trotting match, $200, mile heats, in harness.

Jas. Irvin named b. g. W. A. Brown	1	2	1
W. Shute named blue g. Blue Morgan	2	1	2

Time, 2:47—2:46—2:42.

Board of Councilmen.

APRIL 20.—The Board met at five o'clock P. M., pursuant to adjournment. D. D. Connover, Esq., President, in the chair. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

BILLS PASSED.

The first order of the evening being the third reading of bills, the following, among many others, were passed:—

Report of Committee on Roads—In favor of macadamizing Broadway and Bloomingdale road, from Fifty-seventh street to Manhattanville; in favor of opening 122d street, from the Third to the Fourth avenues, and Ninth avenue, from Bloomingdale road to 125th street, on the 1st of May.

Report of Committee on Wharves, Piers and Slips—In favor of building a boat house for the accommodation of the United States forces stationed in this harbor.

Report of Committee on Lands and Places against curtailing the present dimensions of the Central Park.

Report of the Committee on Public Health in favor of paying W. B. Reynolds $46,745 51, the same to be in full for all the items of property used by said Reynolds for the removal of offal, &c., appraised in February, by James Horner, Charles Waterbury and George Briggs.

SPECIFICATIONS OF THE NEW CITY HALL.

The Board then resolved itself into Committee of the Whole, and took up by sections and adopted, with some amendments, the remaining specifications for the New City Hall, as reported by the Committee on Repairs and Supplies.

The Board then adjourned.

Court of Sessions.

Before Judge Stuart.

APRIL 20.—*Charge of Assault with Intent to Kill.*—Henry Brockman was indicted for assaulting Thomas Wilson with a knife, under the following circumstances:—The defendant was barkeeper in Mr. Casenbrook's liquor store, 86 Oliver street; and on the night of the 14th of February, five men, including the complainant, came in and asked for a drink. One of them gave in payment a note, about which there ensued a dispute, and Casenbrook coming in at the moment, made some remark that excited the anger of his visiters. The evidence for the prosecution here flatly contradicted that produced by the defence. The men in company with Wilson averred that Brockman seized Wilson by the throat, dragged him across the counter, and stabbed him in the back, inflicting a wound that laid him up in the hospital for twenty-nine days. On the other hand, three witnesses for the defence declared that the five men (who were more or less drunk) assaulted Casenbrook, and that Brockman, in attempting to rescue his boss, seized Wilson as described, and struck him—not with a knife, but with a tumbler. Verdict—not guilty.

Carrying a Slung Shot.—John Kiernan was charged with this offence, under the statute that makes it a felony to carry a slung shot, or any instrument in the similitude of a slung shot. On the 7th of November last, (election day,) officer Waines saw a crowd of persons between Sixteenth and Seventeenth streets, coming towards the poll at the corner of Sixteenth street and Third avenue. The crowd pressed on, surrounded the poll, and two men, according to the evidence of the officer, stooped as if to seize the ballot box. One of these men was Kiernan, and him the officer immediately arrested. The crowd followed and evinced a disposition of attempting a rescue, but the policeman succeeded in carrying off his prisoner. On the way to the station house Kiernan dropped from beneath his coat a heavy pliable whip handle, with about a pound of lead at one end. Mr. Holmes, counsel for the prisoner, contended that this instrument was not a slung shot, or similar to a slung shot, within the meaning of the statute, which must be strictly construed. Witnesses were examined for the defence to show that when Kiernan was bending over the ballot box, as described by the policeman, he was forced into that position by the crowd. The prisoner's brother deposed that he was a driver, and owned a stable, and that the instrument alleged to be a slung shot was a whip, used by defendant for upwards of a year. Several witnesses gave the defendant a character for peaceableness and sobriety. Verdict, not guilty.

ANOTHER PAPER MILL DESTROYED.—The large paper mill at Niagara Falls, owned by Mr. B. Bradley, was destroyed by fire on Thursday night. This mill was one of the largest in the Western country; it was capable of manufacturing six thousand pounds of paper per day

Police Intelligence.

CURIOUS CASE OF ALLEGED FRAUD IN WALL STREET—A CONFIDENCE MAN AT WORK—SUCCESSFUL BURGLARY AND ROBBERY OF JEWELRY—ALLEGED GRAND LARCENY—RECKLESS DRIVING.

A somewhat curious and intricate case of alleged fraud came to light yesterday afternoon, at the Chief's office, which has caused a great deal of excitement among the bankers and lawyers of Wall street. The circumstances of the case, as far as we have been able to ascertain, are these:—On the 27th ultimo, the banking house of H. M. Connor, of Charleston, S. C., sent on a draft enclosed in a letter to John W. Downing, of Chestnut street, Philadelphia, payable to his order on the Bank of the State of New York in this city. By some mischance the letter was, as is supposed, directed to New York instead of Philadelphia, hence the document read "John W. Downing, Chestnut street, New York." The postman, in whose charge the letter was placed on its arrival in our Post Office, left it at No. 19 Chestnut street, in this city, where a cooper named John M. Downing, resided. This individual was not at home when the letter arrived, and when on returning, was, as may be supposed, much astonished to find that a draft for such a large amount should have been sent to him. Not knowing exactly how to act under the circumstances, the New York Downing went to Mr. Bulkley, lawyer, of Wall street, who, as it is alleged, advised "John M. Downing" to draw the money from the bank and deposit it in the hands of a responsible party for safekeeping. Accordingly the lawyer and he went to the Bank of the State of New York, where Mr. B. identified Downing as a client of his, and John M. Downing drew the amount specified in the draft, endorsing it at the time "John M. Downing." The paying teller, it seems, did not pay particular attention to the hand endorsed, or else he could have easily discovered that there was something wrong, for the draft was filled up in the name of "John W. Downing," while the endorser's name was "John M. Downing." Having procured the money from the bank, it was deposited in Mr. Bulkley's hand with Mr. Riggs, banker, of Wall street, where it remained until yesterday. The Philadelphia Downing, hearing that a draft had been sent him by the Charleston bankers, made some inquiries, and found to his surprise that it had already been cashed and endorsed at the Bank of the State of New York. Not relishing the idea of there being two Downings in the field, word was sent to this city, stating that there must be some awkward mistake—that the genuine Downing had not even seen the draft. This, of course, induced the officers of the bank to overhaul "drafts paid," and upon closely examining the Downing one, sure enough John W. Downing had not endorsed the document, but John M. Downing had, and he had got the money too. In order to clear up the difficulty, recourse was had to the Chief of Police, who placed the matter in the hands of his experienced detective, Mr. Keefe, for solution. This officer, who is well experienced in intricate bank cases, at once proceeded to the bank in Wall street, and there learned that Mr. Bulkley was the party whom Downing had called upon to prove his identity. Proceeding to the office of Mr. Bulkley he learned, upon questioning the clerk in his office, that Downing's direction (he was then at work in New Jersey) could be obtained at 74 Cortlandt street. Here the desired information was, with little trouble, obtained, and the officer at once started for a small hamlet about five miles back from Jersey City, where Downing was found. He was immediately conveyed to New York, where he related the whole story nearly as above. He was taken to the Chief's office and locked up for examination. Officer Keefe, on receiving information from Downing as to the place where the money was deposited, went to Rigg's office and informed them that the deposit left with them did not rightfully belong to the depositors, and made the banker promise that he would not deliver the property up if called for. Mr. Bulkley was next called upon, when he explained how matters were, and announced himself quite willing to deliver up the money. It was accordingly drawn by M