THE NEW YORK HERALD.

WHOLE NO. 6821. MORNING EDITION—MONDAY, APRIL 30, 1855. PRICE TWO CENTS.

THE DANISH WEST INDIES.

Our St. Thomas Correspondence.

ST. THOMAS, West Indies, April 10, 1855.

Steam Communication—Fires—An Opera Troupe—Death of Nicholas—Our Spanish Relations—The Ben Franklin and Catharine Augusta—Strange Rumors—The United States Consul and the Local Authorities—Men of War—The Allies and Niggers—An Election—The Fire Department—Health—Shipping News, &c.

After a residence of about two months in these parts I at length feel myself equal to the task of keeping you advised of matters as they are in the Danish West Indies. In fact I have pretty well digested all things (except the food) in the three "ever faithful" islands of St. Thomas, St. John and Santa Cruz; and with the keen olfactories of a dyspeptic, you may be assured whatever of rotten is in this part of the States of Denmark, will be faithfully nosed out. It is my intention for the present to speak, however, more of local news than of things political.

As this is the point at which the English West India steamers assemble twice a month to interchange passengers, mails and freight, to and from Southampton, Mexico, the Spanish Main, &c., we are regularly advised of things as they transpire in the great world. There is also another effort being made to establish regular steam communication with the United States, which we hope will prove successful. The pioneer in this enterprise, the Osprey, leaves to day for Philadelphia, via Bermuda, and has the honor to bear this important despatch.

We have lately had some slight shocks of earthquake, but nothing serious is apprehended. In past years, the great curse to St. Thomas has been the most devastating fires.

Thanks, however, to the energy and public spirit of the then Counsellor of State and Judge, the Hon. H. H. Berg—the actual Governor—a different style of building was adopted, and it is long since there was so destructive a conflagration happened as that which destroyed the warehouses of the worthy American firm of Whitmore & Co., a few weeks since.

We have lately had Salvi and Fiorentini to charm us for a couple of evenings only. They were on their way from Havana to Southampton, and were easily induced to remain a few days—leaving, we hope, with light hearts and heavy pockets—for they had not been so successful during their late career in Mexico and Cuba. Old Salvi was in fine voice, and the Signorina looked more charming than ever—being withal in an interesting condition, heightened by a slight lameness, the result of an accident while riding over the hills of this island a few days after her arrival. Bottesini, her husband, and Belletti, the instrumentalist, were of the troupe.

The death of Nicholas has been received with deep regret here by all except the allies and their todies—the Spaniards. On receipt of the news most of the shipping showed flags at half-mast. It is truly a loss to America. Nicholas was our friend and the munificent patron of our citizens. May Alexander follow his footsteps in all things.

The threatening aspect of our Spanish relations occasioned some little sensation here. Long, low, sharp schooners are already enhanced in value, and I would just recommend Uncle Sam to look well to this famous free port in time—or we will have Spanish privateers slipping out of it by the score. The facilities for fitting out and getting simon pure Spanish crews are very great. Porto Rico is in sight any clear day. By the way, those famous vessels, the Ben. Franklin and Catharine Augusta, are still here, and there is yet much curiosity expressed as to their final destination. It is, perhaps, of sufficient significance to be entitled to special remark, that Mr. John N. Olcott, who came out from New York as agent of those ships, returns in the Osprey, and his place is supplied by a Mr. Pickett, who has arrived from New Orleans via Havana, and who is said to be a confidential friend of General Quitman. What does this mean? Do these vessels, after all, constitute the left wing of the great expedition? Or are they designed simply to operate against Porto Rico? The United States Consul here assures all inquirers that nothing of the kind is in the wind, and adds (rather mysteriously, it must be admitted,) that "Mr. Pickett is an United States officer, and cannot be engaged in any unlawful business." Now, the inference is, that the United States government is preparing for the wrath to come; and having purchased these ships, with all their store of shot, shell and guns, has sent an officer here to take charge. Either solution of the difficulty has its advocates; and whilst one party expects an United States man-of-war to arrive and take possession of the two vessels, the opposition declares it is daily looking for two or three shiploads of fierce filibusters.

By the way, you will recollect the extraordinary outrage of the firing into the Ben Franklin by one of the forts of this place, some months ago, as she was peacably leaving the harbor under charter from the British mail agent. The correspondence had on the occasion between our faithful and vigilant Consul, Major Helm, of Kentucky, and the local Governor was given to the public at the time.

But there was a subsequent interchange of notes which we have not yet seen in print. As they are creditable alike to the consul and the Governor, I have procured copies from the agent of the Ben. Franklin, and enclose them herewith. As an evidence of the disapproval of the conduct of the officer who ordered the firing, the home government has removed him from the command here and promoted him downwards to a less important post in Santa Cruz. By the way, the gentleman who so coolly fired three 24-lb. shot into an American steamer crowded with passengers, glories in the distinguishing appellation of "Knight of the Bed Chamber to his Majesty the King of Denmark." What the duties of that important trust may be, a plain republican cannot guess.

Lately we had a Danish and an English man-of-war in port, but at present the harbor is bare of armed vessels. I was much struck at witnessing the cordial embrace of Captain Forbes, of H. B. M. ship Calypso, and Commodore Dickson, a "cullud pussun" belonging to the navy of his Imperial Highness Faustin I., Emperor of Hayti. Well, hugging is a mere matter of taste—black roses are sweet. And, by the way, until lately, I had observed a most wonderful intimacy between Monsieur de Chedeville (French consul here and correspondent of the *Courrier des Etats Unis*—of which paper he was late sub-editor), and his knotty-pated excellency Buenaventura Baez, ex-President of the Dominican Republic. They were eternally arm in-arm, and evidently "slept in the same bed." Now a-days they are never seen together. There has evidently been a breach of the *entente cordiale*—which is a great pity. Baez, you know, stopped from Santo Domingo a year or two since, with a treasury in his pocket. He has lately been on a visit to his great patron, Louis Napoleon. He has invested his "funs," as the elder Mr. Weller would say, to great advantage here.

Lately there was an election held for the five members of the Legislative Council for the Danish West Indies, that number being the representation to which this island is entitled. To manifest the interest taken in politics by the people, I will inform you that out of 2,000 independent voters, just twenty-one of them took the trouble to attend the polls. If that is not an indication of rottenness in the State, I should like to know what is. Fancy such a polling in New York.

They practice a number of good old customs here. For instance, when there is an alarm of fire, the members of the companies run home, (if in the day,) put on a many buttoned uniform, assemble at the engine house, where the roll is called, and if any member is absent they wait for him. After going through with all this, the door is gravely unlocked, and "der mershcen" dragged to the scene of action with all due deliberation. Think of that, oh, ye firemen of Gotham!

The health of the place is good, with the exception of a few cases of yellow fever among the shipping. Business is rather dull. DANNEBROG.

THE CORRESPONDENCE.

LETTER NO. I.

COMMERCIAL AGENCY OF THE UNITED STATES, ISLAND OF ST. THOMAS, Jan. 9, 1855.

SIR—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 23d ultimo, in reply to my letter of that date, informing me that you had ordered a Military Court of Inquiry to investigate the facts relative to the firing upon the American steamer Benjamin Franklin, and have delayed replying to your letter thus long, awaiting the return of the steamer.

I have now to inform you that upon the return of the steamer to this port, Joseph Daniel, a shipwright, of this island, was sent on board to examine the hurts and damage the said steamer had received by reason of the firing into her from your fort, who estimates the damage at from $150 to $300, requiring a delay of some twelve days to complete the repairs; the vessel, while lying in port is daily incurring an expense of from $60 to $80; that the owner will go on and repair the vessel and hold your government responsible for the payment of the expenses incurred. A copy of Mr. Daniel's estimate is herewith enclosed.

I have also to remark that I presume the "Military Court of Inquiry" you have ordered is intended to investigate the facts in reference to the conduct of the officers or soldiers engaged in this outrage, and not intended to investigate any point touching the responsibility of your government to the owner of the steamer. If, however, I am wrong in this presumption, and the proceedings of the court are to have any bearing upon the question of the liability of your government to the owner of the steamer, I must, as the representative of the government of the United States of America, protest against this *ex parte* proceeding, and insist that we have fully established all the facts stated in my communication of the 23d ult. by a host of uninterested witnesses of the highest respectability, and again insist upon the payment by your government of all damage sustained by my countryman in consequence of his outrage.

Prompted by an earnest desire that such insults and outrages may not be repeated, and that American citizens may have some further guarantee that they will not be interrupted in their legitimate and lawful pursuits in the West Indies, I enclosed a copy of the papers connected with this affair to the Hon. W. L. Marcy, Secretary of State, with the request that a demand be made upon the Danish government for the dismissal of the officer in command of the fort, as I intimated in my letter I would do.

With continued assurances of my unimpaired confidence in your justice and friendship, I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

CH. J. HELM,
United States Commercial Agent.

To his Excellency H. H. BERG, Governor of St. Thomas.

LETTER NO. II.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, ST. THOMAS, Jan. 10, 1855.

SIR—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, claiming payment for repairs and demurrage on account of the unpleasant affair of the ship Benjamin Franklin.

I need not assure you that it would have been highly congenial to my sentiments and wishes if I at once could have come to an arrangement of an object which you press with so much instance on the government, but I have not the authority requisite, and the case of said ship having, on account of its importance and particular nature, already been submitted to the home government, it will be unavoidably necessary to refer to the same also the matter of the claims now set forth, which will be done through the Governor-in-Chief without loss of time, and with which I hope you will be satisfied.

With regard to the Military Courts of Inquiry pending, I beg to say that the objects of them are to ascertain the facts and conduct of the military on the disagreeable occasion in question.

Aware of the lively interest you have evinced in the security of the shipping and in prevention of stopping vessels by firing at them, it gives me pleasure to add to this communication, that your views and wishes will, I hope, be attained; and that measures are partly taken and furthermore in contemplation, to adopt other regulations in order, if possible, to avoid stopping vessels by the means of firing at them. I have the honor to be, with regard, sir, your obedient servant,

H. H. BERG.

To CHARLES G. HELM, Commercial Agent of the United States, St. Thomas.

LETTER NO. III.

COMMERCIAL AGENCY OF THE UNITED STATES, ISLAND OF ST. THOMAS, Jan. 11, 1855.

SIR—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of yesterday, in reply to my note of the 9th inst., and have the pleasure to say that the course you have pursued in submitting the question of payment for repairs and demurrage to the home government is entirely satisfactory to the owner and consignee of the American steamer Benjamin Franklin, as well as to myself, and trust the necessity which impels you to this course will be understood and appreciated by my government. I shall enclose, by the the earliest opportunity, a copy of the papers, not already transmitted, to the Hon. W. L. Marcy, Secretary of State, who will doubtless take such steps in the premises as may be necessary and proper to bring this affair to a just and satisfactory conclusion.

I cannot withhold my expression of gratification at learning that I have been partially instrumental in producing a change in the regulations of your government which is to result in some modification of the practice of stopping vessels by firing at them, by which the lives and property of innocent persons are often placed in great peril.

Permit me to renew my expressions of friendship, and to assure you that my confidence in the justice of the home government has not been impaired by any act of your excellency.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

CHARLES G. HELM,
United States Commercial Agent.

To his Excellency, H. H. BERG, Governor of St. Thomas.

Our Bermuda Correspondence.

HAMILTON, Bermuda, April 20, 1855.

Trinity Church—The Weather and the Crops—The Steamer Osprey—Departure of Troops—The English West India Fleet.

Owing to the active exertions of Bishop Field, the completing of that portion of Trinity Church, in this town, which has for some time been erected, is rapidly proceeded with, and the Bishop expects to consecrate it on Ascension Day, the 13th of May.

The weather of late has been beautifully fine, and very little rain has fallen, which has afforded an excellent season for the crop of Irish potatoes now approaching maturity. Some of the earliest have already been taken up, and a few barrels have been shipped. By the end of the month they will be plenty, and large shipments will take place. Some few tomatoes have already been shipped to the United States, and large quantities will probably be sent by the next vessel that leaves.

The steamer Osprey, Captain Chatham, leaves tomorrow for Philadelphia. The owners of this boat have entered into a contract with the government of Demarara whereby they agree to run a steamer monthly between Philadelphia and Demarara, which will call at Bermuda and Barbadoes. They are to receive from Demarara $10,000 per annum, and they will, also, I suppose, receive the £500 per annum granted for such a scheme last year by our Legislature.

The left wing of the 55th Regiment, under command of Major Cox, left Ireland Island on Wednesday last, in the transport ship William, for conveyance to Dublin to join the headquarters stationed there. The reserve companies of the 26th Cameronians are on their way from England to these islands in the transport Walter Morris, and are expected here by the end of the present month. When they arrive the full complement of men usually stationed here will be on duty.

H. M. S. Boscawen, Capt. Glanville, flag ship of the naval Commander-in-chief, is at present lying at these islands. His excellency Rear Admiral Arthur Fanshawe, C. B., landed soon after her arrival here, and has taken up his residence at the Admiral's residence, Clarence hill. A large portion of the crew of the Boscawen have been on leave during the past few days.

H. M. S. Calypso, Capt. Forbes, arrived last week, having come up here to undergo repairs, in consequence of having got on shore at Antigua and lost her false keel.

H. M. S. Eurydice, Capt. Tarlatan, left yesterday for Havana.

H. M. brig Wolverine, Com. Corbin, left on Sunday last for Turks Islands and Jamaica.

H. M. steamer Argus, Com. Purvis, left on Wednesday last for Halifax.

I understand that the court martial lately held has acquitted the officer as well as the pilot of H. M. schr. Bermuda of all blame for the recent loss of that vessel.

Police Intelligence.

ARREST OF A COUPLE OF ALLEGED FEMALE SHOPLIFTERS—CHARGE OF GRAND LARCENY—SPEALING NEWSPAPERS.

Officer Brown, of the 9th Ward police, arrested two females on Saturday night, named Sarah Smith and Eliza Squires, charged with shoplifting. These females, it appears from the affidavit taken before Justice Davison, of the Second District Police Court, went into the boot and shoe store of George Ely, of No. 69 Sixth avenue, on the night in question, and requested to be shown some gaiter boots. The desired articles were shown these females, but somebow or other, none of the gaiters could be found to fit, and they were preparing to leave the store, when Mr. Ely missed two pair of boots, and at once suspected that the ladies had got possession of them, but felt somewhat diffident about charging them with the offence. At last, however, getting his courage up to the sticking point, he made bold to ask them a question or two relative to the whereabouts of the missing property. From the answers received the proprietor of the store became convinced that two accomplished shop lifters were in the store, and accordingly called in officer Brown. A search was then instituted, when the missing property was discovered concealed beneath the apparel of the fair purchasers, and also a variety of other articles, which are supposed to have been dishonestly obtained, consisting of a straw hat, five pair of gaiters, two pair of rubbers, a dress pattern, one merino shawl, a blue dress, black veil, piece of edging, white shirt, glass candle stick, glass bottle, two wine glasses, china cups and saucers, and a pocket book containing a pawn ticket. These articles are now in the possession of Mr. Murray, the clerk of the Second District Police Court, where owners are wanted for the property.

Hooks were fixed to the under clothes and petticoats of the prisoners, to which they attached goods pilfered from the stores that they frequented; and thus could dispose of a large amount of property, particularly boots or shoes, without any bulk being discerned. The prisoners were committed for examination by Justice Davison.

Andrew Custis was arrested by officer Trainer of the Eighteenth ward police, charged with stealing a gold watch, valued at $60, a deed of the house and lot of the premises 440 Second avenue; also a mortgage on some real estate in Williamsburg, the property of William O'Connor. Justice Davison committed the accused for examination.

Patrick Costello was taken into custody on Saturday morning, by officer McNulty, of the First ward police, with a bundle of newspapers under his arm, which it was supposed he had stolen from the various stores down town. Copies of the *Courier and Enquirer*, *Journal of Commerce*, HERALD, and other newspapers, composed the parcel. The accused was taken before Justice Connolly, at the Lower Police Court, who committed him for examination. Those persons who wish to prefer a complaint against the accused are requested to call at the Police Court.

Officer McCaskee arrested Daniel Brangel, formerly a clerk in the employment of John Tice, of 113th street, between Sixth and Seventh avenues, charged with stealing $25 from his employer. Justice Davison held the accused to answer.

Justice Connolly, of the Lower Police Court, has dismissed the complaint made against Silas Smith for highway robbery, after carefully examining into the merits of the case, and accordingly the defendant was discharged from custody.

News by the Mails.

The Pittsburg *Chronicle*, on the authority of a private letter, announces that the cholera has appeared at St. Louis.

The friends of the prohibitory liquor law of Massachusetts will hold a State convention in Boston on the 8th May. Gov. Gardner will preside.

The small pox is very prevalent in Paducah, Ky., and the Circuit Court has been adjourned in consequence.

Samuel Willis, the genuine original confidence man of this city has been arrested in Albany for borrowing ten dollars and a gold chain from a storekeeper, just to try him.

Dramatic and Musical Matters.

THE OPERA at the Academy of Music was very well attended during last week, and there was a very fine house on Friday, when "William Tell" was played for the last time. Verdi's last work, "Il Trovatore," will be produced this evening in very fine style, and from the favorable opinions expressed of it by good critics after the last rehearsal on Saturday, it is safe to say that it will make a "hit." The cast includes Steffanone, Vestvali, Amodio, Brignoli and Rocco. It is worthy of notice that this opera is produced here in advance of its performance in London. It is promised in the Covent Garden programme.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, we learn, will not open for Italian opera until Monday, May 7, when "Il Barbiere di Siviglia" will be given, with Mme. de la Grange, Marini and Rovere in the principal parts.

At the BROADWAY THEATRE, "Coriolanus" has been played through the week to fair houses. It will be acted again this evening, when Mr. Forrest commences the seventh and last week of his engagement. On Tuesday he plays Spartacus in "The Gladiator." It is stated that he will be succeeded by Mr. E. L. Davenport and Miss Fanny Vining. Mr. and Mrs. Barney Williams will shortly play an engagement at this house.

At BURTON'S THEATRE, nothing new was played last week. The "Comedy of Errors," with pleasant farces, drew good houses. This evening "David Copperfield" is to be played, with Burton as Micawber, and Hall as Uriah Heep.

At WALLACK'S THEATRE, "Elopements in High Life," which has already been fully noticed in the HERALD, was the only novelty of the week. It will be played this evening, together with "Popping the Question." "Tit for Tat," an Olympic piece, from the French, of course, but said to be very well Anglicised, is announced for performance on Wednesday. It was brought out in London about two months ago, and was a success.

At the BOWERY THEATRE, Mr. and Miss Charles have been playing a short engagement, terminating on Saturday with a benefit. This evening a new spectacle, which has been some time in preparation, and is called "The Seven Temptations," will be produced. The scenery, dresses, &c., have all been made for the piece, and it combines the attractions of the drama with the witcheries of the ballet. Mr. Robert Jones, the stage manager of the Bowery, has no superior in getting up pieces of this kind.

At the AMERICAN MUSEUM the dramatic selections for this afternoon and evening include "The Lady of the Lake" and "Ambrose Gwynett."

At WOOD'S MINSTRELS, No. 472 Broadway, a fine concert programme is announced for this evening. The performance concludes with the colored version of the "Wandering Minstrel."

At BUCKLEY'S, 539 Broadway, this evening, a version of Donizetti's comic opera "The Elixir of Love" is announced. It is to be done "in white"—something new.

PHILADELPHIA.—Mr. and Miss Charles commence an engagement at the Chestnut this evening. We are informed that, after this season, this theatre is to be razed, and a block of stores will be erected in its place. The citizens of Philadelphia have subscribed $180,000 towards the erection of a new opera house in that city. The committee which has had the subject under consideration report that the land and building will cost $220,000. It is thought that the $40,000 required to complete the requisite sum will be readily obtained. The concert of M'lle. Nau and Mr. St. Albyn was so successful that it is to be repeated next week. F. E. Burgess is their agent. They are engaged by Mr. Buckland, for Montreal.

BOSTON.—The Pyne English opera troupe continue to give operas at the Boston theatre. Mr. and Mrs. Barney Williams are engaged for fifteen nights at this theatre. Mr. J. E. Durivage appeared at the National theatre on Friday last, for Mr. Fleming's benefit. Mrs. J. C. Frost has concluded a very successful engagement at Salem, and gives a reading from the poets, at that place, by invitation, on Saturday of this week.

BUFFALO.—Miss E. Bridges is playing here.

BALTIMORE.—Mr. S. Murdoch, brother of J. E. Murdoch, has made a favorable *début* at the Baltimore Museum. There is no truth in the statement that Mr. Henry C. Jarrett, manager of the above named theatre, has taken the Metropolitan theatre, New York.

MOBILE.—Mrs. C. Howard closed here on the 21st.

ALBANY.—Mr. Chanfrau and Miss Albertine have been playing at the Museum. Mr. C. T. Smith has opened the Green street theatre.

PROVIDENCE, R. I.—On Monday last Mrs. Forbes had a benefit, when her pupil, Miss Hunting made her *début* as Juliana. The Boston *Gazette* says:—

Between the pieces Mr. Oxley, on behalf of the citizens of Providence, the beauty and fashion of which city crammed the house with a most *distingué* audience, presented Mrs. F., with a service of plate. It consisted of one very large and another smaller salver, a fruit basket, tea urn, ewer, sugar bowl, cream ewer and goblet—in all, eight silver pieces of most beautiful workmanship, constituting a superb testimonial, every way worthy of the donors and the recipient. The pieces contained the following inscription:—"Presented to Mrs. Forbes by her Providence friends, as a testimonial of admiration of her talents as an actress and of their high esteem for her as a lady."

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA.—The Boon Children are playing here, and the *Republicon* says that they draw large audiences.

NEW ORLEANS.—During the past season two theatres in this city have been destroyed by fire. The American theatre was burned for the second time, last week. The edifice then destroyed was built in 1840, and was for a time the most popular house in New Orleans. The first star engagements in it were those of Mrs. Fitzwilliam and Mr. Buckstone, and they drew full houses against Fanny Ellsler at the Saint Charles. At this time Ludlow and Smith were the managers of the American. Mr. Macready played there, and other good stars. In 1842 the Saint Charles was burned, and when it was rebuilt, the managers of the American took a lease of the new Saint Charles. They were not very successful during the first two years. In the meantime, the American passed through several hands, and ruined several new managers, until at last Mr. R. Place undertook to manage it, and for several years was very successful. We remember that in one season his net profits amounted to $12,000. The American, however, began to decline about the time the Varieties was beginning to loom up in the horizon, and descended as rapidly as it had arisen. It was soon abandoned by the dramatic muse, and the horses of Spalding & Rogers, the great circus men, were installed behind the scenes. Like all attempts to convert a theatre into a circus, this failed, and now the old American began to be considered very bad property. Its ruin was completed when the Varieties was finished; since then it has been for the greater time closed. When the galleries of the Orleans theatre fell, the fine operatic company of that establishment took the American for a few nights. But even the unequalled attractions of that company could not draw the people to this once popular resort. The lovers of music and the opera could not relish the rich notes of Borghese and Bertini with such surroundings and associations. Next, when the Varieties was burnt, the company of that establishment made an effort to revive the glories of the old American, but after a few nights abandoned the effort in great disgust and with some loss. For the last twelve or eighteen months the American has been eased to a German company, which, during the summer and fall, played two or three times a week to very good houses, but for some time past has been like all its predecessors, doing a rather poor business. Such is briefly the history of the "Old American." Its destruction on Thursday night makes the fifth theatre which has been destroyed by fire in New Orleans within the last fifteen years. The old St. Charles, the Histrionic Temple, the Varieties, the original American, and lastly, the same establishment rebuilt. The season at the St. Charles Theatre closed on the 21st. Mr. Charles Pope and others left on that evening for St. Louis, where Mr. De Bar has taken Bates' theatre for the spring season. Mr. Collins is the first star, and Mr. and Mrs. Bourcicault are engaged. The Gabriel Ravel troupe have gone to Nashville. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Howard gave a benefit at the Pelican theatre on the 25th for the widow of Redmond Ryan.

CALIFORNIA.—We have dates to April 1. Neafie was at Marysville. Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Chapman, Miss Mary and Alcero Chapman, had gone up the Southern mines, as far as Mariposa. They performed on the 7th ult., at the store of O. Schroeder & Co., Snelling's ranch, and drew well at Dr. Kenson's ferry, on the Tuolumne. They intend going as far as the Kern River mines. The Robinson family were at the new theatre at Coloma. The California Dramatic Company, Mr. Hendrie, manager, was at Placerville. Mrs. Fiddes was in the corps. W. B. Chapman, Hamilton, Cook, and Caroline Chapman, had been at Grass Valley and Nevada. Walter Leman had taken a benefit at Marysville. The American, San Francisco, was to be re opened by Dr. Spaulding. Fa rchilds and Terrera are his artist and machinist, and Laura Keene, Mesdames Thoman and Judah; Messrs. Leman, J. A. Smith, and Wheatleigh, are in the stock. Mrs. Estelle Potter had *debuted* at the Metropolitan, as Margret Elmore.

Religious Intelligence.

DEDICATION OF A NEW CATHOLIC CHURCH IN BROOKLYN, THE STAR OF THE SEA—SERMON BY ARCHBISHOP HUGHES.

The dedication of the new Catholic church, on the corner of Court and Lequer streets, Brooklyn, took place yesterday. The ceremony was performed by the recently consecrated Bishop of Portland, Me., Right Rev. Dr. Bacon, Archbishop Hughes, and Bishop Loughlin, of Brooklyn, being present. The officiating clergy were Very Rev. Drs. Starrs and McCarron, Rev. Mr. McNiernay, Master of the Ceremonies, Rev. Messrs. McCloskey, Rev. Dr. Schneller, and Rev. Mr. McGuire. The church was crowded even to the sanctuary, while an eager throng beset the doors on every side. Among those present we noticed Dr. Ives, the recent convert to Catholicism and ex-Episcopalian Bishop of North Carolina.

The ceremony of dedication has been so often described that it must be already familiar to our readers, and we will therefore give only the sermon of the Archbishop. The Reverend prelate took his text from the eighty-sixth Psalm, as follows:—

The foundations thereof are in the holy mountains.
The Lord loveth the gates of Zion above all the tabernacles of Jacob.
Glorious things are said of thee, O City of God.

I remember the time, continued the Archbishop, when a priest was sent from the dwelling of the Bishop of New York once a month to offer the holy sacrifice of the mass in Brooklyn. In the interval which has elapsed between that day and the present great changes have taken place. When I find myself addressing only one portion of the flock of Brooklyn, and that so multitudinous; when I turn my eyes to the sanctuary, and behold the prelate whom God has appointed to rule the church of this diocese, and another prelate appointed elsewhere, and these surrounded by venerable priests, and these again accompanied in the ceremonial by, perhaps, the young neophytes of the sanctuary; when I lift my eyes and look around and behold this beautiful and glorious temple of God, I feel that great changes must have taken place since the period when a priest came to Brooklyn to offer once in a month the holy sacrifice of the altar. Yes, dearly beloved brethren, great changes have taken place, and other changes in the continued progress of the city of God whose foundations are in the holy mountains, will take place from day to day. It is not my purpose to dwell is much detail on the triumph of your zeal and of your charity in aiding the priest who undertook the erection of this church. He has completed his work so far; and having completed it so far, the voice of God through the ordinary channels by which his will is made known to man—especially the order of the Catholic hierarchy—that voice calls him to a new, unseen, unknown field; and whether he is to be surrounded there by faithful members of the holy Catholic church who shall sustain and co operate with him—aid him as you have done—is a problem; but there is no despondency, no doubt in any mind upon the subject. I would remark briefly that the impression which the very appearance, the *coup d'œil* of this church has made upon my own mind, is one of grandeur. It is creditable to the pastor, who officiates in his new character for the first time in this temple, erected much by his zeal and labor and solicitude; and whatever may come hereafter, he has left a monument of that zeal and of his devotion in the holy ministry. If you inquire for that monument, you have only to look around—it is here; but it is not his alone—it is yours also. Nor does the fact that this church is very much in debt, in the least detract from the remarks I make in regard to it, for the people who have raised it thus far will pay its debts and complete it. A debt on the Catholic church, under certain circumstances, is not the greatest of calamities; but what would be a calamity for you and and the sanctuary of this holy temple, would be to have persons placed between you and your priesthood as middle men, touching with profane hand the sanctuary of which they should stand in awe, and sinking your church in debt even though you had freed it from all responsibility. That would be a calamity; but debt, simply debt, is not a great calamity—time and Catholic zeal will remove all that so far as you would desire to have it removed. But you, in the meantime, should be faithful to Almighty God, and not permit men—well meaning men if you please, but incompetent to stand between the clergy and the faithful laity of the Catholic church—between you and the devoted pastor whom you so much respect. By united effort everything can be accomplished, and it is a mercy of the Almighty that in this case there is not the slightest probability that your efforts will be thwarted by that un-Catholic system which makes laymen masters over God's sanctuary and God's priests. This is a matter for which you should be thankful. However, dearly beloved brethren, the church, this perishable monument which will in time crumble, is but of little consequence as compared with that it symbolizes. And what does it symbolize? The church, the "city of God," the "gates of Zion," which the Lord loveth above all the tabernacles of Jacob. This it symbolizes because, although it is the church located on a certain spot, and although it is itself and not any other church, nevertheless God has so ordained his divine religion that the fulness thereof and the completeness of all God's institutions, and mercies, and revelations, and sacraments are here, and are to be here in this church just as they are throughout the whole world. There is nothing in the Holy Catholic Church which is not in every congregation—that is, a fulness of divine truth, the administration of the sacraments, and the presence of that order of ecclesiastical government which the Almighty has appointed for the government of this city of the earth. What are these? They are three which divine truth has revealed—the sacraments as channels of grace, the death of Jesus Christ upon the cross, and the government of that church which preserves its unity. These you are to have in this new temple, and you need not go abroad to find anything better than you have here. You may travel east or west, you may find yourself in the magnificent dome of St. Peter's, you may behold the supreme pastor there officiating. But these are only outward points of difference. As to all that is intrinsic in religion, you have it here—truth of revelation. And here let me observe, in regard to this, that God has adapted his revelation to the nature of man as it is. If we had been of a different nature spiritually, the Almighty, no doubt, stooping to our aid in mercy, would have adapted the means of mercy according to our nature; but as it is, thus he has revealed his religion to us in its present form. And you will observe one peculiar attribute of the human mind, that except when it is darkened by the clouds and vapors of man's passion, arising from the corrupt heart, it is always yearning after truth; in all its inquiries the subject is truth; in regard to anything of importance it is always uneasy, dissatisfied, till it reaches a point that indicates certainty. This is the nature of the mind of man, and because this is the nature of his intellect, God has in his revelation stamped truth with the seal of certainty in his church. It is not, of course, possible for me now to enlarge upon this question of the divinity of the church; it is enough for me to say that it is the work of Christ, that it is what Christ appointed it should be; that it is authorized by him to speak in his name as he spoke in the name of his father; that, therefore, it would be something different from the church which he instituted if it could hesitate, or stammer, or speak with a double tongue, of the truths God has communicated to secure and render stable the convictions of the human mind. It speaks in positiveness and simplicity—"Yea, yea; nay, nay"—but there is no doubtful speculation in the church of God. The ministers of that church are not authorized to give out the results of their own investigations in the form of opinion. They have a message, and our divine Saviour stated that he was sent by the Father; and thus establishing his own mission, he sent others—but he sent them not to give way to speculations as if the revelations of God were a crude system of philosophy, but to teach the truth, all truth, as he promised to be with them always. If, therefore, you are of curious minds—if you are of that temperament which would study and be a votary of some of the ancient Pagan philosophy, or modern infidelity, go where those things are to be found; but in this city of God, the foundations of which are in the holy mountains, you will not find much to gratify your appetite for uncertainty, or investigation. Here is truth, but coming from God through the channel which he has appointed. It is not my truth, though I pronounce it—it is God's truth, and I am but the echo of the divine voice. Thus in regard to the human mind, and here it is truly you will observe, beloved brethren, how God, in the order of his revelations has adapted it to the actual condition of man. But man has a heart as well as an intellect, and God has adapted his religion to the one no less than to the other. How is it possible for you without religion and that communicated in the form of certainty as far as God's word can make it—how could you fill up the capacities of your heart were it not for the truths that are thus derived. You can love, and that is a sentiment which God has implanted in human nature, so that you cannot divest yourselves of it. You can love your neighbor, your friend, the people of your country, the whole human race, and beyond that human race, rise to the celestial region and embrace in the capacity of your all created spirits, the cherubim and seraphim, and when you shall have embraced all in that single sentiment you will find that in all these there is not enough to fill up the measure of your capacity, and that in God alone is a subject of infinite love capable of filling the capacity of your almost infinite love, showing the connection which he has established with himself and the human heart. Thus when you hear in this place the mysteries of religion announced, the doctrine of the Trinity, of the holy sacrifice of the mass, of the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, of the incarnation of our Divine Saviour, becoming man for our sake—all these are truths to be believed by the intellect. You will not understand them, because they are mysteries; but you will understand that God cannot deceive you; there is the satisfaction for the reason, and when the reason is satisfied you will be attracted as by a magnet to the love of God; while those who are possessed with the ideas of modern heresies and infidelity speak of God as a being away at some immense distance, wrapt up in himself, perfectly happy and perfectly indifferent about human affairs. Thus as regards man, you perceive the Almighty has adapted his revelations to our nature. I can't allow it to be said that because you hearken to the voice of God, even though it sound in your ears through human channels, therefore you give up your opinion—let no such folly take possession of your heart, but let it be understood that the man who has faith in the truth of God stands highest; and although there are those who make this objection, you will find that God is dishonored in this sense; that although he has made a revelation, they deny to him either veracity or the power to transmit that revelation as certain truth through all nations and through all time. And hence they, themselves by the very desire they have to seek in doubt, acknowledge they have lost the thread of communication with the living God; because if they possessed it, it would not be necessary to seek; because when they give out the result of their investigations of Scripture they give out only opinions and speculations, and the danger of the evil resulting from all this, is that the God of all Truth is presented to those who hearken to them as a God of uncertainty. This is the result, and it is on this account purely, beloved brethren, that for all the favors Heaven has bestowed on us we Catholics, ought to be bound in gratitude for the gift of faith. It is the gift of God—God is master of it—He has imparted it to us, and we ought to beseech him that he will extend that gift to those who are groping in the midst of the contradictions of human speculation. In the mean time, however, our days upon earth are but few: let us endeavor to improve them—let us hearken with docility and humility to the voice of authority—the church of Christ; let us practice the virtues which the religion of Christ imposes upon us as a portion of our spiritual devotion; let us be faithful and devoted in our attendance upon those institutions through which God operates directly by the ministry of his priests. It is thus that by another sanctification, different from the outward ceremony of the day, you will make the place worthy of God to whom it is consecrated; it is thus you will correspond, in some measure, with the very title of this church, which is dedicated to Mary the Sinless, the daugater of Eve, that never was at any time under the dominion of the devil; and this, also, by a title which those who have travelled much will recognize as peculiarly appropriate, namely, "The Star of the Sea,"—Mary, the mother of redeemed humanity. Eve was the natural mother, but Mary was a spiritual mother in the order of grace; not that she was more than a creature, but she was the creature chosen of God to be the mother of his divine Son, who was to be immolated for the salvation of the world. Mary thus bright, the beautiful, "the star of the sea," the unpolluted, the holy, the faithful; Mary, who stands out from humanity as one bright and particular star; and as we are tossed and exposed to the shipwrecks of life, let every Catholic heart be uplifted because Mary was of earth, she was our mother—and, be assured beloved brethren, if you cherish this devotion, this piety towards the mother of God, you will just in the same proportion be more and more faithful to God. Mary is a creature; but then the solitary and exceptional creature, who was appointed from all eternity to be the mother of the Word Incarnate. Ask of her to intercede for us with her divine Son; pray to her; study her example, behold her humility, her patience, everything that fills the mind of him who contemplates her life and character, I will not say with admiration, but with awe and admiration mingled together. Be faithful children of Mary the Immaculate, the sinless Mary, who is designated in the inspired poetry of the church as "The Star of the Sea." Then your presence will be an additional consecration of this temple—then your bodies will become consecrated, and then you will correspond with the infinite mercy of God in communicating to you the certain truths of revelation, and confirming them with the gift of faith; then you will be worthy disciples of Him to whose honor this temple is dedicated, through the patronage of the ever glorious and blessed Virgin Mary.

At the conclusion of the sermon, the mass was continued, and it was near three o'clock before the ceremonies attending the dedication were concluded.

The church is built in the Gothic style of the thirteenth century, and is capable of accommodating over two thousand persons. The architect is Mr. Keely, and the cost of its erection will, it is estimated amount to about forty thousand dollars. The pastor is Rev. Mr. McGuinness, through whose exertions and those of the Rt. Rev. Bishop Bacon, and the liberality of the Catholic community of Brooklyn, the new edifice was erected.

Our thanks are due to the pastor for the excellent accommodations provided for the members of the press, although the crowded state of the church rendered it impossible to obtain even standing room.

City Improvements.

THE OLD TONTINE BUILDING TO BE DEMOLISHED.

One of the oldest organizations of New York, and one which has drawn near the termination of its existence, is the Tontine Association. Those who established this company are now those whose memory runs back to the trying times of Revolutionary date, when Wall street was filled with horse stables, and when St. Paul's church and the City Hall were out of town. The Tontine fraternity was a sort of a joint stock building association, but something different from the building associations of our day. There was something social in the system upon which the Tontine Society was founded, that recommends it even to our times. It was first established in the year 1790, and the groundwork of its organization was, that all the stockholders, during the life of each, should receive an equal share of the profits of the association; but upon the death of each stockholder, his interest should revert to the remaining members of the Society. The survivors, from year to year, should continue to hold and receive among themselves the profits of the concern till only four remained, and then the entire property should be divided equally among this four, and the association be forever buried. This organization is something similar to the play of "The Last Man," in which six students agreed to meet once a year as long as any one of them lived, and over a glass of wine and a Dutch pipe recount the incidents of the past. Upon the death of any one of the club, the survivors, at each returning anniversary, were to place the mug of beer and the pipe at the seat of the departed, as though he were alive and momentarily expected to join the rest, and this annual meeting