NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR.

OFFICE N. W. CORNER OF NASSAU AND FULTON STS.

Volume XXI.....No. 83

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Fourteenth street—La Sylphide.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway—Mazeppa—That Blessed Baby.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway—Figaro—The Green Monster.

BURTON'S THEATRE, Chambers street—Taking the Chances—That Blessed Baby—Fortunio.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway—Much Ado about Nothing—A Capital Match.

LAURA KEENE'S VARIETIES, Broadway—Camille—Novelty.

BROADWAY VARIETIES, 472 Broadway—Black Eyed Susan—Loan of a Lover—By the Juvenile Comedians.

WOOD'S MINSTRELS, 444 Broadway—Ethiopian Performances—Robert Macaire.

EMPIRE HALL, No. 596 Broadway—Tour of Europe and Siege of Sebastopol.

BROOKLYN MUSEUM—Brooklyn—A Seaside Story—The Wandering Boys—Review.

New York, Monday, March 24, 1856.

Mails for Europe.

NEW YORK HERALD—EDITION FOR EUROPE.

The Cunard mail steamship Arabia, Capt. Stone, will leave Boston on Wednesday, at noon, for Liverpool.

The European mails will close in this city at a quarter to two o'clock to-morrow afternoon.

The Herald (printed in English and French) will be published at ten o'clock in the morning. Single copies, in wrappers, sixpence.

Subscriptions and advertisements for any edition of the New York Herald will be received at the following places in Europe:—

London—Am. & European Express Co., 17 and 18 Cornhill.
Paris— do. do. 8 Place de la Bourse.
Liverpool— do. do. 7 Rumford street.
Liverpool—John Hunter, 12 Exchange street, East.

The contents of the European edition of the Herald will embrace the news received by mail and telegraph at the office during the previous week, and to the hour of publication.

The News.

The ship Gemania, arrived at this port yesterday, reports picking up a boat belonging to the ship John Rutledge, of and for New York from Liverpool, which vessel ran into an iceberg on the 19th of February, breaking in her bows. She was subsequently abandoned. In the rescued boat was a man named Nye, of New Bedford, who, so far as is known, is the only survivor of the passengers and crew of the ill-fated Rutledge. The boat also contained the bodies of Mrs. Atkinson, the wife of the mate, and three others, names unknown. Such particulars of the occurrence as we have received may be found on the first page. This is one of the most appalling catastrophes which we have been called upon to record for many years, and is painfully suggestive of the fate of the steamship Pacific.

The Board of Police Commissioners, composed of the Mayor, Recorder and City Judge, have rendered their decision in the case of Mr. George W. Matsell, Chief of Police. They concur in the opinion that the charge of alienage preferred against the Chief is not proven, and dismiss the complaint. We publish the opinions in another part of to-day's paper. Those of the Recorder and City Judge are very elaborate, and review all the points in controversy between the parties. Messrs. Briggs and Branch must pick their flints and try it again.

Captain Whitmore, of the ship Sea Serpent, which sailed from Hong Kong on January 3, and arrived at this port on Saturday, furnishes us with some interesting news items from China and Japan. The revolutionary party, although defeated near Canton, were steadily advancing in other quarters of the empire. They had powerful fleets lying off the coast near Canton, which must not be confounded with the hordes of pirate junks already reported. During December the weather was unusually bad. A great many Chinese had returned from California, and emigration was very much checked by their reports. From Japan we learn that the Dutch had presented the war steamer Soembing to the Emperor. The English were about forwarding another vessel to his Majesty from China.

We copy from the St. Thomas *Times*, of March 8, an important communication addressed by Major Charles J. Helm, United States Commercial Agent at the Island, to his Excellency President Berg, in which the former gentleman suggests the propriety of establishing a marine hospital for the relief of suffering seamen of all nations. An important feature in the letter is, that Mr. Helm shows the feasibility of maintaining such an institution without any direct charge being levied on the vessels sending in sick men. Major Helm's action is as disinterested as humane, for while he says that over one-third of the sailing tonnage is American, he nevertheless invites a member from the Danish government, the Superintendent of the British Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, and all the Consuls, to form a Board of Control.

We have files of St. Helena papers to the 24th of January. They contain nothing of importance. A correspondent of one of them, after alluding to the visit of Prince Pierre Bonaparte to Corsica, inquires what would be the impressions and feelings of any member of the Bonaparte family who should visit the island upon finding the tomb of the great Napoleon miserably neglected, and Longwood House turned into a ruinous range of barns, stables and pigsties, while both are only valued as puppet shows, with a regular charge for admission and "children at half price."

We have dates to the 5th instant from Trinidad, Port au Spain. The island was healthy. Flour was quoted at $10 75; pork, $22; no corn in market. There was every prospect of an average yield of native produce.

In our maritime columns will be found the sailing directions for the navigation of the river Yang-tze-Kiang to Wusung and Shanghae, prepared by Lieut. Preble, U. S. N.; also other important information relative to the tides, winds, &c., in that region, the real value of which will be fully understood and appreciated by navigators.

The value of foreign goods imported at the port of Boston during the week ending 21st inst. amounted to $769,587.

Sales of cotton yesterday were pretty freely made, including 3,000 bales, chiefly in transitu. The market closed firm. Flour was less freely offered, and the long run of purchasers upon common brands, has considerably reduced the quantity offering for sale, and holders stood out for full prices, at which sales were more freely made. The stock in this market was estimated by some well informed persons at 150,000 bbls., of all kinds. Prime wheat was in good milling demand. Canadian white was held at an advance, say $1 95. The article brought $1 92 day before yesterday, while white Southern sold yesterday at $1 81 a $1 90, and inferior Tennessee red at $1 60 a $1 65. Corn was dull, with sales of mixed at 63c. a 65c., and white at 66c. a 68½c.; prime yellow, for contract delivery, was sold at 69c. a 70c. Rye was lower, and sold at $1 12 a $1 13. Pork was inactive, at $15 87 for mess, and at $14 87 a $15 for prime. Rump pork sold at $14. There was a good demand for refuse pork at full prices, which is said to be purchased for conversion, to a great extent, into prime mess for the French market, and that large quantities, probably of low grades, have thus been manufactured. The balance of a cargo of Rio coffee was sold yesterday at 11¾c. The range of the market was from 11½c. to 12c. Sugars were quiet, without change in prices. The increase of tonnage had a tendency to check freight engagements. Cotton, about 500 bales was engaged for Liverpool at 9-32d. a 5-16d. A vessel was chartered to load for Hamburg at 11d. for grain, and ½c. for cotton.

The English in India—The Annexation of Oude.

Lord Dalhousie, the Governor General of India, has decided to annex the Kingdom of Oude to the dominions of the British East India Company. The decision, it seems, is his own; the Court in London left him master of the situation; he might annex or he might sequestrate, as he thought best; and he has resolved to adopt the former plan. Had he sequestrated the province, like Mysore, its entire revenues would have been expended within its borders; it would have contributed nothing to the general exchequer of the company; it would in fact have stood alone—an island in the ocean of the company's territory; and Lord Dalhousie, like a provident man, preferred saving to throwing away the lots of rupees which it may be made to yield. He has, therefore, ordered the company's troops to be concentrated on Cownpore, from whence they have by this time moved already on Lucknow and Oude, and formally taken possession of the kingdom. To the dethroned King, the company gives a residence and a pension of $600,000 a year; for the rest, they alone are responsible.

The motive of the operation is not concealed. There is no pretence that the annexation of Oude is desired by its inhabitants, justified by political necessity, or instigated by vengeance. One hundred years ago Oude was a province of the decaying Mogul empire. The Nawab incurred the displeasure of the British by harboring the fugitive Nawab of Bengal; Lord Clive visited him with the East India Company's vengeance, and laid a tribute on his dominions. In 1777 he began to pay $1,500,000; in 1767, the tribute was raised to $2,500,000 per annum. Meanwhile quarrels arose. The Company demanded that the Nawab should disband his army; they received complaints made against him by his subjects, and worried him till, in 1800, he surrended his only protection—his army—and became virtually a British pensionary. For fifty-five years he and his successors have been allowed to lead this strangely degrading life; and now the farce is to be ended. The Nawab, who, in his disgrace and degradation, comforted himself with the title of King, is to be pensioned, as we said; his dominions are to be erected into a Province, with General Outram for Chief Commissioner, and a host of young men from the civil offices of the Company at Calcutta as a government.

Such is the last act of British power in India. A province larger and far more fertile than Nicaragua, with a hardy, robust population of over three millions, is transferred to the British empire by a stroke of the pen; and the transfer will probably be carried into effect without the burning of a cartridge. Oude is so rich that the government officials at Calcutta estimate that it will pay without difficulty from $7,000,000 to $10,000,000 surplus revenue in three years. It is admirably watered by tributaries of the Ganges; the soil is excellent; and it is near enough the Thibetan range to enjoy a far more wholesome climate than the Southern provinces of the empire.

The motive for the annexation of this valuable province, we repeat, is nakedly avowed; it will yield two hundred lacs of rupees per annum. A secondary motive may be found in the position of the Indian government. Lord Dalhousie's term of service is ended. Lord Canning has already gone out to replace him. Every British Governor in India since the beginning of the present century, has added a province or two to the empire; there have been nineteen distinct annexations since 1800. Lord Dalhousie was unwilling to fall behind his predecessors. He saw Oude ripening for the Company's sickle; should he leave to his successor the pleasing task of gathering it in? Like Mr. Tyler in the like dilemma, he vowed he would annex it, if the act were consummated in the last minutes of his last official day; and it may happen that the final fiat may go forth as the vessel bearing Lord Canning steams up to the mouth of the Ganges.

Whether the three millions of human beings who inhabit Oude will be better or worse off under British rule than they were under that of their native tyrant, it is clear that there is no justification in point of principle for the act by which they have been despoiled of their nationality. It is a robbery; a robbery as glaring, as shameful as that of the man who picks his neighbor's pocket, or breaks open his safe. Were such an act committed on this continent and by the United States, all Europe would re-echo with outcries at the enormity of the outrage; and the virtuous journals which express the British mind would call down vengeance on the lawless rapacity of the American people. The people of Oude would be represented as injured angels, poor, innocent lambs fallen unhappily under the fangs of the Yankee wolf; and appeals would be made to the honor and the manhood of the men of Europe to stand up in their defence. The parallel case of Turkey would probably be invoked; and it would be said that God and their sense of honor called upon Europeans to step forth and put an end to the aggrandizing policy of the American republic.

Oude being, happily, in Asia, and not in America, and the conquerers being the British East India Company, and not the American people, there will be very little said about lawless rapacity, or robbery, or honor, or anything of the kind. The province will quietly be annexed. If the subject is mooted at all in Europe, it will be at the Congress of Nations, when an endeavor will be made by England to erect some new barriers on the western flank of her Indian empire to protect them from Russian aggression.

The Speaker in Tuscany.—The correspondent of the Newark *Advertiser* translates, from the purest Tuscan, the following from the official journal of that State:—

The new President of the Congress of the United States, elected after two months' daily balloting—Signor N. Banks—is a negro, belonging to the republican representation of Massachusetts. As a man of color, and as an abolitionist, he does not enjoy the sympathy of the Southern representatives. The democratic party, to which the administration of President Pierce belongs and the party of the Know Nothings, have, notwithstanding, little pleasure in this choice.

Banks will certainly be obliged to go to Europe, in order that he may prove the truth of the seeming paradox that black may be white under some circumstances. Or, as he is represented to be acquainted with all the living languages, he might write a letter in very choice Italian to the editor of *Il Monitor Tuscano*, and put himself right on the record. Let us hear from Signor Banks.

Beautiful Day Yesterday.—Churches all full—ladies lovely—ministers eloquent. Never saw a finer Easter Sunday or more religious fervor.

Steam and Ferry Boats.—We publish elsewhere the State statute requiring ferry boats and steamboats to carry life and row boats. This act, as plainly appears, has been and is still systematically violated by all the steamers and ferry boats plying to New York, with the exception noticed yesterday. We apprehend, therefore, that the vigilant District Attorney, Mr. Oakey Hall, will lose no time in instituting prosecutions against each vessel offending, based on the report of the two policemen. The law has been violated by about forty vessels, including those visited by the policemen; the fines to be collected therefrom will amount to ten thousand dollars, at $250 a piece, according to the statute. A lucky windfall for the State.

The law given elsewhere was passed April 11, 1849. It was no doubt a very fair law then. In the last six years, however, steam navigation has made some progress in the waters of this State; and it is impossible to read this statute without being convinced of its present inadequacy. For instance, it requires the largest class of inland steamers—those of over 500 tons measurement—to carry three boats, two of them capable of carrying or sustaining fifty persons each, the third capable of carrying say fifteen or twenty; vessels of less than 500 tons it requires to have two ordinary row-boats, capable of carrying say forty persons; and ferry boats it directs to be provided with one small row, or life boat, capable of carrying from fifteen to twenty persons. These enactments are, to say the least, insufficient. The boats of over five hundred tons, and a great many under that measurement, as well as many ferry boats, often carry from one to five hundred passengers; what is the use of making a law to provide for the saving of one hundred and twenty of these? If the law steps in at all, why shall it order some to be saved while it allows the others to be lost? Would it be any satisfaction to the relatives of the three hundred and seventy-five persons drowned to know that the owners of the steamboat had rigorously complied with the law, and that one hundred and twenty of the passengers had accordingly been saved? Nay, more: does not experience tell us that, where the supply of boats is obviously unequal to the number of passengers, it generally happens that in the selfish struggle for the possession of the boats, they are swamped or destroyed, or rendered useless?

It is understood that Mayor Wood will visit Albany this week, by invitation from the city delegation, in order to see if anything can be done by the Legislature to remedy the state of anarchy in which this city exists. Among subjects which will necessarily command their attention, that of the insecurity of life on board steamers and ferry boats will occupy their early attention. We desire to commend one principle to their minds. The day of life-saving by means of boats carried on board steamers is past. An instance cannot be mentioned in which they have fulfilled their purpose. They are in fact out of the question. The Brooklyn, Jersey City and Staten Island ferry boats carry at times five hundred passengers at once. To save these by means of boats, twenty of Francis' largest life boats would be required, all in good condition, all so placed as to be launched without injury. How is it possible that a ferry boat can carry these? Where shall she stow them?

If life is to be saved on board these boats, it must be by life preservers. The life preserving stool—shaped like an hour glass—will answer the purpose perfectly. They can be made very cheap; and can be used on board as seats—a thing much needed—so that this expense will not be felt at all. Three hundred of them, as each is calculated to support two persons, placed on board each ferry boat, and five hundred on board the Hudson and Sound steamers, would reduce the salvation of life to a mathematical certainty.

Another Seceder from Fillmore.—Judge Conklin, who was Fillmore's Minister to Mexico, has come out in a long and not very brilliant letter, giving in his adhesion to the Nigger Worshippers. The Buffalo *Express*, an organ of the last named party, says:—

Judge Conklin, it will be recollected, was transferred by Mr. Fillmore (by his own consent, of course,) from the United States District Court Judgeship of the Northern District of the State of New York to the mission of Mexico. This was performed through a process, the machinery of which we should like to see laid bare to the public eye. Its purpose was to secure a life lease of office for Mr. Fillmore's Postmaster-General. By the manœuvre, a pure, upright and experienced Judge was taken from a position of usefulness—not of his own choice, we are sure—and sent abroad upon a brief mission to a broken down and decaying republic, to which was attached neither honor nor profit.

We think Conklin was paid pretty well (about thirty thousand dollars,) for doing nothing during two years.

A Slight Mistake.—The New Hampshire *Patriot* (Pierce's home trumpet) blows as follows:—

The New York Herald expresses the belief that it will be impossible to prevent Gen. Pierce's nomination at Cincinnati. If he is there nominated, there is not an intelligent man in the country who doubts his triumphant election.

The New York Herald never expressed any such belief; and there are several intelligent men in the country and in New Hampshire, we should suppose from the late election returns, who have serious doubts on the subject. Whom the gods wish to destroy they first make mad; and General Pierce may be nominated yet.

Curious Way of Doing "Nobly."—The *Post*, (Pierce organ at Boston,) says its democratic friends in New Hampshire have "done nobly." Now, their gubernatorial candidate was defeated, and the nigger worshipping Know Nothings have a majority in the Legislature. What we want to know is this: If the *Post's* democratic friends all over the country should act with Granite State nobility, where would the Cincinnati nominee find himself in November? Echo answers very loudly—away up Salt river.

Rifles for Kansas.—The St. Louis *Republican* is informed that large numbers of rifles are passing through that city from New England, *en route* for Kansas, and that a number of boxes of them were spotted on the levee the other day. The *Republican* need not be alarmed. Although the Aid Societies may send rifles, their creatures will be afraid to use them. Traitors are always cowards.

Another Ferry Row.—A correspondent desires to know why the boats from the Twenty-third street ferry are not running according to the franchise. Navigation has been open up Newtown creek for some time, and no boats are run. We are assured that if the proprietors of the lease are tired, that there are numbers of people ready to take it and accommodate the public. Will Mr. Hall look to this?

The Contested Election for City Comptroller.—Giles versus Flagg.—This case will be brought on for trial this morning in the Supreme Court, before Judge Roosevelt and a struck jury, composed of twelve of our most respectable citizens. From the list of forty-eight names selected by the Commissioners of Jurors, the counsel for the contestants of the disputed office, struck off twelve each, leaving twenty-four from which the jury are to be taken according to the prescribed form.

The case of Brandreth against Ferdon, for the contested seat in the State Senate, and which was recently decided in favor of the latter, is in many respects similar to that which will come up to-day for adjudication in the Supreme Court. They both furnish strong proofs of the grossly negligent and loose manner in which some of our elections are conducted.

We are glad, however, to perceive, from the case now before the public, that a revolution has been effected in the process of trial, and we trust the plan now adopted will be followed hereafter, particularly in cases where the contested office is one of much importance. The decision of the claim to contested seats by legislative bodies is generally influenced in some degree by political considerations, and it is therefore almost impossible to obtain a fair and impartial trial. Where the questions in dispute are left to the decision of a struck jury, there is, however, every reason to expect that it will be a just one, or that politics will be ignored in their consideration. The jurors in such cases will, as a general thing, be selected on account of their character and position in the community; but if they are chosen for their political affinities or predilections, the balance between the contestants will at least be preserved.

Mr. Fillmore and the Know Nothings.—Since the election in the fall of 1854, which placed Myron H. Clark in the executive chair, there has been at intervals considerable controversy as to how Millard Fillmore cast his vote—whether for the present Governor or Daniel Ullman. We learn that this point can be satisfactorily settled by a letter, still in existence, written by Mr. Fillmore in January, 1855, to Isaac Newton, the well known Quaker of Philadelphia. This document, now that Mr. Fillmore is again on the track, becomes of no little value. It is said, too, that the letter contains the ex-President's views as to the organization of Know Nothings, and it would be well to make them public at this time. The original, and a copy of the original, are in existence. Will Mr. Fillmore's friends produce the letter at once, and settle the question as to his vote in 1854, and his views on the subject of Know Nothingism?

Hard Swearing all Round.—Admirers of the junior Seward organ, and politicians generally, are particularly requested to read the article published to-day from the Albany *Express*, anent the Railroad Commissioners. The press is a great engine, but rash drivers sometimes run it off the track.

News for Erie County.—Mr. Fillmore is endorsed in North Carolina because he "turned out of office every free soiler in his own State." Is that so, and has he taken the third degree? Will the new organ at Albany be kind enough to answer?

Glad to Hear it.—The Charleston *Mercury* has found out that Mr. Pierce is a friend to the South. It is exceedingly encouraging to hear that he is a friend of something or somebody. Where are his friends?

THE LATEST NEWS.

BY MAGNETIC AND PRINTING TELEGRAPHS.

From Washington.

KENTUCKY AND THE CINCINNATI CONVENTION—THE KANSAS COMMISSION—MR. CRAMPTON AND THE ENLISTMENT TROUBLE.

Washington, March 23, 1856.

Several delegates from Kentucky to the Cincinnati Convention are here, and report that State for Lind Boyd first, then for Buchanan or Douglas. They consider Kentucky certain for the democratic nominee by a large majority.

Mr. Hickman, of Pennsylvania, will be Chairman of the Commission to Kansas. The other two are the same as I telegraphed last week. The Speaker may, however, change one of the names, as there is a strong effort being made in that direction.

New facts have come to light, in reference to the enlistment difficulty, which will be disclosed in a few days. They add materially to the facts already implicating Mr. Crampton.

Murder at Camden, N. J.

Philadelphia, March 23, 1856.

Mr. Wm. J. Hatch, a member of the Camden Common Council, was shot this morning by a party of gunners whom he had ordered to leave his premises at Cooper's Point. The murderers were arrested and committed.

The Philadelphia Catastrophe.

Philadelphia, March 23, 1856.

The body of Edward Merchamp, formerly conductor on the Camden and Amboy Railroad, was found in the Delaware to-day, making thirty one bodies that have been recovered.

Emigrant Aid Meeting at Columbia, S. C.

Columbia, March 23, 1856.

A large meeting was held in this city yesterday, to promote emigration to Kansas. Resolutions were adopted, and committees appointed to collect funds.

Navigation of the Ohio River.

Wheeling, March 22, 1856.

There have been thirteen arrivals of steamers to-day from below, and more are expected to-night and to-morrow, with a large quantity of Eastern freight.

Markets.

Mobile, March 22, 1856.

Cotton has advanced; the sales to-day were 6,000 bales, at 9¼c. Sales for the week, 34,000 bales; stock in port, 138,000; receipts for the week, 16,000 bales.

Providence, March 22, 1856.

Cotton—Sales moderate, at unchanged prices. Wool—Prices remain firm; sales for the week, 98,000 lbs. Printing cloths—Sales, 29,400 pieces.

Naval Intelligence.

A schooner load of machinery and guns for the new steam frigate Roanoke, now in dock, arrived at Norfolk on the 16th inst., from Richmond.

Men are at work preparing the launching ways for the steam frigate Colorado, at Norfolk, which it is expected will be ready to be launched in about a month.

The United States propeller Dispatch is to be supplied with a new wheel, one of the fans of the old one being found broken. As no new pattern could be obtained, another will have to be cast. On account of this, it is expected her repairs will not be completed for several days. She will, therefore, be taken out of the Navy Yard dry dock, and placed in the sectional dry dock, on the New York side, to give place to the new steam frigate Niagara. The Dispatch will go out this morning at an early hour, and the Niagara will be admitted at or near 11 A. M. to-day. The Niagara is expected to occupy the dock for about six weeks; for while in that situation she will not only be coppered, but the propeller and the after shaft, with the shaft bearings, will be fixed in their proper places. The propeller has not yet been brought to the yard; but the shaft, with the bearings and couplings, and various other portions of her machinery, are already within her.

The Ball at the Academy of Music.—The promenade concert and ball for the benefit of the "Nursery for the Children of the Poor" will take place next Thursday evening, at the Academy of Music. It will be a splendid affair. Apart from the opportunity it affords every one to assist the poor children of the city, the ball will be as attractive as an opera. The price of tickets is fixed at two dollars.

News from China and Japan.—Captain Whitmore, of the ship Sea Serpent, which sailed from Hong Kong on January 3, and arrived at this port on the 22d instant, furnishes us with the following news items:—

There is no news of more than ordinary interest from Canton. The steady progress of the revolutionary party is an undoubted fact, though their discomfiture in the vicinity of Canton has for a while caused them to disappear from that quarter. They now hold the most fertile provinces in the interior, and have powerful fleets on the coast ready to take advantage of any opportunity to reenter the river. They are not to be confounded with the pirates, who have been almost as troublesome as usual on the coast. This is established by the testimony of Mr. Eli M. Boggs, an American, who was compelled to remain among the pirates from June last, until he escaped in November. He says the pirates are much more afraid of the rebels than of the Mandarins. The former attack them and capture their guns and ammunition. The latter always keeps at a distance from them.

The weather was unusually bad last month (December) in the China Sea.

One large vessel, name unknown, and the Dutch bark Johanna, was reported on Prata Shoals at the departure of the Sea Serpent. H. M. B. brig Bittern also reported on shore a short distance outside, having got under weigh to go to the spot.

The river and adjacent country quiet.

The Chinese are not so much disposed to emigrate as formerly, and large numbers were returning from California.

In freights, the ship Challenge was loading for London at £4 10. Freights to New York, $15.

The *Friend of China*, of Nov. 21, says:—

The Dutch war steamer Gedeh, Commander Fabius five days and a half from Japan, arrived here last night, and saluted the British and American flags this morning. The Soembing, Dutch war steamer, has been presented to the Japanese government, and remains at Nagasaki, though what use they have for her, or for the English steamer, to go by-and-bye, is uncertain. The Gedeh brings no news. Nothing more had been heard at Decima of the American raid at Simoda, as reported on a former occasion.

City Intelligence.

THE POSTAL REFORM AGITATION.

A meeting will be held this evening, in the large chapel of the University, on Washington square, by those who favor postal reform. Their official prose platform is as follows:—

No franking!—let government pay its own postage; uniform postage—two cents; free letter delivery; no compulsory prepayment; dead letters to be returned; Post office money orders; cheap ocean postage.

The following is the official poetry of the movement:—

POSTAL REFORM: OWING TO THE POST OFFICE

The sloth is like a mail coach,
And travels very slow;
The tortoise, like a post horse,
Along the ground doth go.

The modern mail, much like a snail,
Crawls o'er the beaten track;
The thief takes off our letters,
And he never brings them back.

The lazy postman, like a post,
Now loiters on the way;
The sleeping postman takes a nap,
And snores the hours away.

The postboy's horn is heard each morn,
As o'er the hill he rides;
The coach-and-six is in a fix,
And slower than the tides.

The carrier dove, with words of love,
Flies onward fast and free;
The air balloon, both morn and noon,
Soars high o'er land and sea.

The locomotive and the train
Defy both wind and storm;
Obstructives all must clear the way;
Look sharp! "Postal Reform!"

The telegraph's too slow by half
For Yankee enterprise;
Professor Morse, spur up your horse,
And lash him through the skies.

A number of well known merchants sign the call for the meeting. Hon. Luther Bradish will take the chair, and distinguished speakers have promised to be present and address the postal reformers.

The civic dignitaries of some of our neighboring cities have intimated their intention to be present. Mayor Conrad of Philadelphia, will put up at the Astor House during his stay, and the Committee have engaged apartments for Mayor Johnson, of Middletown, at the Union Place Hotel.

Easter Sunday.—The Easter holidays were inaugurated splendidly yesterday, by deliciously warm and pleasant weather. It was just the kind of day that would have thawed old winter's coat tail off had he presumed to linger in the lap of spring, to chill his fair and fickle supporter. Broadway and Fifth avenue were themselves again, proceeding and succeeding church hours. They were thronged with young and pretty damsels, who had turned out to give their recently procured dry goods an airing, and bewilder the young gents that frequent those avenues, by the magnificence and beauty of their *tout ensemble*. There was any quantity of "bewitching" hats, "charming" mantillas, "sweet" *moires* and other rainbow-hued garments to be seen, with the usual allowance of female inside of them; and really they were beautiful and fascinating enough almost to justify the extravagant expletives fair femaledom is in the habit of bestowing upon them. The Roman Catholic and Episcopalian churches were thronged during the day, and sermons commemorative of the Redeemer's resurrection and ascension were preached to overflowing and attentive audiences. The decorations in the Catholic churches all assumed a festive character. The pictures and altar furniture, which, during Lent, were draped in black, and put out of sight, were uncovered and restored—the sombre vestments of the priests were laid aside, and robes of white and gold, and crimson were donned to express the joy felt at our Savior's resurrection and victory over death, hell and the grave. High mass was said, and the ceremonies were all of a jubilant and exultant character. Nor was the day forgotten in the Protestant churches, as Christ's resurrection formed the theme of many an eloquent and impressive discourse.

Novel Apparatus for Raising Sunken Vessels.—At 11 A. M., to-day, will be launched from the foot of Thirty-sixth street, North river, a pair of patent lifting tanks for raising sunken vessels, recently invented by Captain Bell (wrecker), and built under the superintendence of Mr. N. S. Wing, of this city. These, combined, are a most novel and curious apparatus, being two separate water and air tight tanks, with straight or square sides, each having on its outer side the form of an acute angle, while the inner surface resembles an arch, which would best compare with a narrow breast hook timber of a vessel. They are 4 feet 6 inches deep by 5 feet 6 inches wide, the whole length being 57 feet, with 45 feet from the span of the arch to the ends, and 18 feet wide across the crotch. A bulkhead, also water and air tight, is placed through the crotch, dividing the tank into three separate chambers, with a valve under each, to admit and let out the water. The valves are opened simultaneously by a lever attached to them all, and by letting go the lever, are closed by the pressure of the water. The tanks are to be attached, one to the bow and the other to the stern of a sunken vessel, each one receiving so much of the vessel within its arch. A sufficient weight is applied to submerge them when filled with water, and when made fast to a vessel or any sunken body, the water within them is expelled, by the force of air on its surface, which is to be applied by means of a pump, and which will then give to the tanks their lifting power. They are constructed in the most substantial manner, having heavy timbers, with thick planking inside and out, and fastened with two hundred and fifty one inch bolts, from five to seven feet long, over and down the sides, and four two and quarter inch bolts, eighteen feet long, athwart the crotch. They are calculated to raise under water a barge or other vessel containing 400 tons of cargo. *Query*.—Allowing the air pump to be of sufficient force, of what material will the connecting hose necessarily be made to enable the pump to form a water vacuum so as to overcome the gravity of the sunken body?

The City Hall Alarm Bell—Improvement Required.—There is much complaint among firemen relative to the lookout connected with the City Hall fire alarm bell, which is not sufficiently elevated to enable the bell ringer to command a good view of the fires in the lower districts. Several buildings in the vicinity are higher than the lookout; among them are French's Hotel, Harper's building, A. S. Stewart's, Moffat's and Taylor's buildings on Broadway, and hence if a fire takes place in a line with those edifices, it is impossible for the man on the lookout to designate its locality. As an instance of this, the fire which occurred in Brooklyn on Sunday morning came directly in a line with Harper's building and the City Hall, and the man stationed at the look-out, discovering a volume of smoke, believed the fire to be at Peck slip, and struck a false alarm for the Seventh district, which called out a huge body of firemen, who were much provoked to find that the alarm was needless. It appears that for a very trifling expense the Common Council can fit up a look out twenty-one feet above the present location, which will command a view of both rivers and all the buildings intervening. This should be immediately attended to by the Common Council, as it puts firemen to needless trouble, and seriously militates against the reliability of the alarm bell. We understand this matter has been before the Common Council for some time past; but so far they have not realized its importance. Without exception, the look out on the City Hall is inferior to either of the other bell towers, when, from its position, it ought to be the most perfect in the city.

Death of a New York Volunteer.—We are informed that Daniel O'Keefe, a member of Company H, New York Volunteers, and formerly an orderly of General Ward B. Burnett, died recently on Blackwell's Island, in extreme destitution. We mention, as an instance of the devotion of the survivors of that gallant band to their comrades, that unremitting exertions have not been spared by Lieut. Peel to ascertain the place of O'Keefe's interment, so that his remains may be exhumed, and that the burial rites appertaining to a Christian and a soldier may be extended to them.

Fire in Centre Street.—On Saturday night shortly after 8 o'clock, a fire was discovered in a German boarding house kept by C. C. Eisele; at No. 19 Centre street. The fire was found burning upon a table in Mr. Eisele's bedroom, on the second floor. A bonnet box, together with a number of shirts, a new pairof pantaloons, and other small articles of wearing apparel were destroyed. How the fire originated is at present somewhat mysterious. The flames were extinguished with a pail or two of water. Sergeant Owens, the telegraph operator at the Chief's office, forthwith despatched an officer for the Fire Marshal, who attended immediately and made the necessary examination. Mr. Eisele has an insurance upon his stock, household furniture, &c., to the amount of $1,200, in the Pacific Insurance Company. The damage done by the fire Mr. Eisele estimates at about $50. The affair is under investigation.

The Irish Celebration To-day.

The natal day of Ireland's patron saint will be commemorated to-day by a procession of the Irish civic associations, and by a dinner given by the Young Friends of Ireland, at the Apollo Rooms, in the evening. This celebration was postponed on account of the real Saint Patrick's day occurring during the last week in Lent, when abstinence and fasting is enjoined on all good believers in the dogmas of the mother church.

Celebrating the 17th of the month on the 24th looks very much like a bull; but Saint Patrick was too good an Irishman to find fault with his countrymen for commemorating his birthday in so characteristic a manner.

There is every promise of a fine day, and no doubt the demonstration will be as full of Celtic earnestness and enthusiasm as usual.

The following is the official

PROGRAMME OF THE PROCESSION.

The various Civic and Trade Societies about to unite in the celebration of the 24th inst., by a public procession will meet in Second avenue, right resting on Fourteenth street, at 9 o'clock A. M., under the direction of John Dougherty, Esq., Grand Marshal, James Sanford, Esq., Deputy Grand Marshal, and, by special invitation, Peter R. Gaynor, Esq., President of the Convention assisted by the following gentlemen, representatives from the various societies:—

John Hussey, Esq.,
Edward McLoughlin, Esq.,
James Cushing, Esq.

Ancient Order of Hibernians' Societies, escorted by the Emerald and Independent Guard, Captains Cox and Mulligan, will meet in Second avenue, right resting on Fourteenth street.
John Tucker, Marshal.
Michael Gillen and Patrick Brady, from the Brooklyn and Williamsburg Divisions, Aids.

Ancient Order of Hibernians Universal Society will meet in Second avenue, between Eleventh and Twelfth streets.
Thomas Nicholson, Marshal.

Irish American Benevolent Society meet in Second avenue, between Tenth and Eleventh streets.
William Taafe, Marshal.

Flushing Mutual Benevolent Society meet in Second avenue, between Ninth and Tenth streets.
John Leonard, Marshal.

Quarrymen's Union Protective Society meet in Second avenue, between Eighth and Ninth streets.
Thomas Kiernan, Marshal.
Charles Allen, Aid.

Hibernian Benevolent Society meet in Second avenue, between Seventh and Eighth streets.
Michael Rowntree, Marshal.

Benevolent Society of the United Sons of Erin meet in Second avenue, between Sixth and Seventh streets.
Patrick H. McGinn, Marshal.
Patrick Carey, Aid.

Workingmens' Union Benevolent Society meet in Second avenue, between Fifth and Sixth streets.
James Saglin, Marshal.

Montgomery Benevolent Society meet in Second avenue, between Fourth and Fifth streets.
Patrick McGrath, Marshal.

Laborers' Union Benevolent Society meet in Second avenue, between Third and Fourth streets.

'Longshoremens' Union Society meet in Second avenue, between Second and Third streets.
Michael Higgins, Marshal.
Maurice Flynn, Aid.

Hibernia Universal Benevolent Society meet in Second avenue, between First and Second streets.
John Reynolds, Marshal.
Patrick McGuire, Aid.

The procession will move at 10 o'clock precisely, and counter march down Second avenue to Second street, through Second street to Bowery, down Bowery to Chatham, thence to the eastern gate of the Park to be reviewed by his Honor the Mayor, Board of Aldermen and Councilmen; thence up Broadway to Canal street, Canal to Hudson, up Hudson to Eighth avenue, thence to Twenty third street, Twenty third street to Broadway, down Prince, and dismiss.

Military companies desirous of participating in the procession will please confer with the Grand Marshal, at his residence, No 563 Eighth avenue, on or before the parade.

Societies not yet represented, and citizens wishing to join, will be assigned a position by applying as above or on the ground.

JOHN DOUGHERTY, Grand Marshal.
JAMES SANDFORD, Deputy.
PETER R. GAYNOR, Guest.

Police Intelligence.

CHARGE OF MANSLAUGHTER ON THE HIGH SEAS.

William Baston, a sailor belonging to the ship Victoria, just arrived from London, was arrested yesterday by officer Newman, of the Emigrant squad, on charge of having on the voyage to this port killed James Reed, also a sailor, by stabbing him in the body with a jack knife. Michael Dempsey, one of the crew of the Victoria, sets forth in an affidavit made before Justice Welsh, at the lower Police Court, that on the 18th of January last, as a number of the crew were sitting in the forecastle, Baston came, and finding that the covering of his chest was torn, became very abusive to those present and swore that he would cut the heart out of the person who destroyed his property; whereupon James Reed, the deceased, stepped up and signified that it was he who had cut the covering of the trunk. A scuffle then ensued between the parties, when Reed fell back upon the floor, exclaiming, "I am stabbed," "I am killed." Witness examined the deceased almost immediately after the occurrence, and found that the blade had penetrated the heart. The deceased was pushing away the hand of the prisoner at the time he received the fatal blow. The prisoner had in his hand a jack knife, which was covered with blood. The deceased it appeared lived until the following day when he died. His body was interred at sea. Justice Welsh committed the prisoner to the Tombs for examination.

CHARGE OF SELLING LOTTERY POLICIES.

John T. Hodges and D. M. Hodges, of No. 558 Broadway, were taken into custody on charge of being engaged in selling lottery policies, contrary to law. The complainant, John S. Sebert, of No 10 Watt street, alleges that the accused have men employed in their office to sell policies, and that they receive all profits, and pay all losses upon the sale of these tickets. The complainant further says that he purchased one of these lottery tickets from a man named Reed, who told complainant that Mr. Hodges was his backer; that complainant went to see Hodges, and that on questioning him relative to the matter, he admitted that he was Reed's backer, and that he had twenty other offices of that kind in this city; that complainant received $10 from Hodges, through a third party. That the accused keep offices for the sale of lottery policy tickets, at the following places, and back the books of the persons in attendance upon them:—

No. 90 Reade street, kept by one Monroe.
No. 72 Vesey street, kept by A. Pierson.
No. 147 Leonard street, kept by one Newbold.
No. 56½ Grand street.
No. 166½ Leonard street, kept by one Russel, and several other places.

The accused were brought before Justice Davison, at the Jefferson Market Police Court, where they were held to bail in the sum of $500, to answer the charge of selling lottery policies.

A NEGRO GAMBLING ESTABLISHMENT BROKEN UP.

At an early hour yesterday morning, the Ninth ward police made a descent upon the gambling establishment of a negro named William White, alias Burn