THE NEW YORK HERALD.

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NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

RE-ASSEMBLING OF CONGRESS.

The Kansas Question Vigorously Reopened.

REJECTION OF GEN. WHITFIELD BY THE HOUSE.

Reported Removal of Judge Lecompte, of Kansas.

THE NEW YORK POST OFFICE SITE, &c., &c., &c.

Affairs at the National Capital.

THE MEETING OF CONGRESS—GEN. WHITFIELD, THE KANSAS DELEGATE, REJECTED—CABINET SPECULATIONS—REMOVAL OF JUDGE LECOMPTE—THE PENNSYLVANIA DEMOCRACY AT LOGGERHEADS, ETC.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1, 1856.

The day is beautiful and the National Capitol is crowded with the beauty and wisdom of the land.

At noon precisely both houses of Congress were called to order by their respective officers, and they were at once launched upon the sea of strong and exciting legislation.

The Senate passed quietly into working harness, and the usual committee was appointed to wait on the House of Representatives and the President of the United States.

The House seemed to be labouring under a feverish excitement touching the seat of the Kansas delegate. An objection to General Whitfield taking his seat was anticipated, and an angry debate was looked for, not only by the crowded galleries and lobbies but by the members themselves. The roll call commenced, and was proceeded with without difficulty until the Territory of Kansas was called, when, upon the credentials of her delegate being presented by Mr. Phelps, of Missouri, Mr. Grow, of Pennsylvania, rose and objected to their being received. In an instant a dozen members were upon their feet with as many propositions. On motion of Mr. Orr the subject was postponed fifteen minutes, in order to appoint a committee to wait on the Senate, and also upon the President. These committees being appointed, the row was resumed on the Kansas case, and Mr. Grow attempted to show Whitfield's election to be a nullity. Considerable excitement prevailed over the hall. Many distinguished lobby members were on hand, among whom I noticed General Webb, of your city.

The President's message will be delivered at noon to morrow.

Gen. Cass informed me to-day that there was not one particle of truth in the report that he had been tendered a place in Mr. Buchanan's Cabinet; and, furthermore, that not one word or line had passed between them in reference to that or any other subject. The General is in good health and spirits, and as far as one can judge by outward appearances, he is good for many years yet. He is quite active and steps sprightly, remarkably so for a man of his age. During the late canvass he was on the stump constantly, and as far as his own State was concerned to little purpose.

The letter of your Albany correspondent, showing up the various plots and manoeuvers during the last few years of Marcy and his spoilsmen, has caused a good deal of amusement among certain parties, and a vast deal of speculation and some hard knocks about the State Department. Another broadside like that will completely annihilate the old Premier, for he is mighty sensitive just now, especially of what the HERALD says.

There is a rumor about town, communicated with studied caution and reserve, that a person high in position has betrayed unmistakeable symptoms of insanity. The alarming probability has caused his particular friends to watch his course with intense interest, and if the symptoms of aberation are confirmed it will cause great excitement and changes in a certain quarter.

It is said Douglas desires that Col. Richardson, of Illinois, should have the Post Office Department.

The New York democracy is not alone in its quarrels and divisions. The Pennsylvania democracy has its troubles also. Since the election of Buchanan the two factions are arranging themselves for the honors and the spoils. One is headed by J. Glancy Jones, Member of Congress for the Eighth district; the other is led on by Col. Forney, the Chairman of the State Committee. It is an interesting fight as it stands, and will in its results be highly beneficial to the party to which they belong. While the houses of Lancaster and York are quarrelling about the offices, Mr. Buchanan can quietly arrange his own programme and let the spoilsmen slide.

I learn this evening that there is some difficulty at the White House in filling the place of Donaldson, who recently resigned the Marshalship of Kansas. The President said that he would stand by Governor Geary at all hazards, and appointed M. Spencer of Ohio, vice Donaldson. I also understand that the President has determined to remove Judge Lecompte, which has caused considerable fluttering among Southern men.

THE LATEST.

DECEMBER 1—Midnight.

The contest is over. Whitfield's case to-night shows clearly that he will be admitted to his seat. The vote stood ninety seven ayes to one hundred and one nays, Mr. Phelps, of Missouri, voting in the negative to move a reconsideration—so the vote really was ninety eight to one hundred. Twenty-one democrats and four republicans were absent—two of the latter sick at home. Some dozen democrats are expected in to night and to-morrow, when the vote to day will be reconsidered and Whitfield admitted. Hon. L. D. Campbell, of Ohio, voted steadily to-day against Whitfield's admission, and this fact will be remembered next winter when he has to undergo a similar ordeal. Governor Reeder was seen in the lobby to-day, but locks down at the mouth.

The Sergeant-at-Arms arrested thirty members who were absent from the house during the call to-day for which, by the action of the house, each member is compelled to pay cost accruing thereto, which amounts to four dollars a head.

THIRTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

SECOND SESSION.

Senate.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1, 1856.

All the members of the Senate were present, with the exception of Messrs. Bell, of New Hampshire; Bell, of Tennessee; Biggs, Butler, Douglas, Houston, Johnson, Jones, of Tennessee; Mallory, Reid, Sebastian, Toombs, Weller and Wright.

The usual committee was appointed to wait on the President, and inform him that a quorum of each House had assembled, and were ready to receive any communication he might be pleased to make.

A similar committee of the House acted in conjunction with that of the Senate, and in each branch a report was made that the President would communicate his annual message to morrow to Congress about noon.

The Senate then adjourned.

House of Representatives.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1, 1856.

About two hundred members of the House were present.

NEW MEMBERS QUALIFIED.

Mr. Hodges, of Vermont, and Messrs. Allen and Morrison, of Illinois, to fill vacancies, were qualified by taking the oath to support the constitution.

THE DELEGATE FROM KANSAS—REJECTION OF GEN. WHITFIELD.

Mr. PHELPS, (dem.) of Mo., presented the credentials of Mr. Whitfield, and moved that he be sworn in as delegate from Kansas.

The credentials were read, Gov. Geary certifying to the fact that Mr. Whitfield was elected as the delegate from Kansas on the first Monday of October.

Mr. PHELPS asked that the usual course be pursued.

Mr. GROW, (rep.) of Pa., objected, and was about to state his reasons when

Mr. PHELPS said it was known that a vacancy had existed in the representation of Kansas. Mr. Whitfield's credentials had been presented and read, and this entitled him to have the oath administered to him. At the last session the seats of the delegates from New Mexico, Nebraska and Kansas were contested, and their credentials were received and the oath of office administered to them severally, without objection being made——

Mr. GROW—I objected.

Mr. PHELPS—The course proposed to be pursued by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Grow,) was contrary to precedent, with one exception, and that was the exception to the rule—I refer to the New Jersey contested election.

The SPEAKER observed—Objection being made, it would be the duty of the Chair to submit the question to the House whether the gentleman from Kansas be sworn as delegate.

Mr. CAMPBELL, (rep.) of Ohio, suggested to Mr. Grow whether, as this was the short session and there was much unfinished business, it would not be better to allow the matter to pass over, as it did last session on a similar occasion. He did not see that anything could thus be lost.

Mr. GROW—I cannot accede to the request.

Mr. CAMPBELL—I have done my duty.

Mr. GROW, in reply to Mr Phelps, said the course he proposed was not unprecedented, and that there were strong cases in the books to justify it. In that of the New Jersey contested election neither set of delegates were admitted until the Committee on Elections after two or three months reported. The House last session sent a commission to Kansas to investigate the affairs of that Territory, and after full deliberation the House decided that no valid election had been held, and hence Mr. Whitfield was ejected from his seat. What change had taken place? Its legislation stands as it did six months ago, when the delegate was rejected. The Legislature was a usurpation; its acts characterized by unprecedented tyranny and unconstitutional wrongs, and its laws the blackest and most odious to be found among those of despotism. The House was now asked to overturn its decision and give validity to tyrannous acts forced on an unwilling people, by the arm of government being used to shield the invaders of their rights from neighboring States.

Mr. PHELPS said he would, at the proper time, be willing to defend the validity of the Legislature and laws of Kansas. At the last session Mr. Whitfield was sworn in and his credentials referred to the Committee on elections, who reported adversely to his taking his seat, and in favor of Mr. Reeder. A vacancy was created; Mr. Whitfield was elected to fill that vacancy, and is now here for that end, yet the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Grow) proclaimed that this question was adjudicated, and decided last session. The gentleman, while voting against Mr. Whitfield, assigned as a reason for doing so that he was elected under a constitutional enactment; but he voted for Mr. Reeder to take a seat in the absence of all law.

Mr. GROW explained. He had stated that the people of Kansas were entitled to a representation, and he desired to bestow it in that way, as proper under the peculiar circumstances.

Mr. PHELPS, resuming, said Mr. Grow's position was that the people of Kansas are entitled to a delegate. Now, who was here to contest the right of Mr. Whitfield? If the gentleman from Pennsylvania was desirous to see the people of Kansas represented, with what sense of justice could he oppose Mr. Whitfield, there being no contestant of the seat? Where was his love for the people of Kansas? The gentleman's course would prevent such representation. Votes were cast for no other than Mr. Whitfield, in October. Let the delegate be sworn in. The credentials can be referred to the Committee on Elections, and when they made a report the House could act as they believed justice required.

The question was then put, shall Mr. Whitfield be sworn in? Decided in the negative by 97 against 101.

The following is the vote:—

YEAS—Messrs Allen, Akers, Allen, Barksdale, Bell, Bennett of Miss., Bocock, Bowie, Boyce, Branch, Brooks, Broom, Burnett, Cadwallader, Campbell of Ky., Carlile, Caskie, Clingman, Cobb of Ala., Cox, Crawford, Cullen, Davis, Dowdell, Edmundson, English, Etheridge, Evans, Faulkner, Florence, Foster, Fuller of Penn., Fuller of Me., Garnett, Goode, Greenwood, Harris of Md., Harris of Ala., Harris of Ill., Hickman, Hoffman, Houston, Jewett, Jones of Penn., Jones of Tenn., Kelt, Kelly, Kennett, Kidwell, Lake, Letcher, Lindley, Lumpkin, Marshall of Ky., Marshall of Ill., Maxwell, McMullen, McQueen, Miller of Ia., Millson, Moore, Morrison, Orr, Packer, Paine, Peck, Porter, Powell, Puryear, Quitman, Ready, Ricaud, Sandidge, Savage, Skorter, Smith of Tenn., Smith of Va., Smith of Ala., Sneed, Stephens, Stewart, Swoope, Tripe, Tyson, Underwood, Vail, Valk, Walker, Warner, Wells, Jr., Wheeler, Witney, Williams, Winslow, Zollicoffer.

NAYS—Messrs Allbright, Allison, Ball, Barbour, Barclay, Bennett of N. Y., Benson, Billinghurst, Bingham, Bishop, Bliss, Brenton, Bullington, Burlingame, Campbell of Pa., Campbell of Ohio, Chaffee, Clarke of N. Y., Clark of Conn., Clawson, Collax, Comins, Covode, Cragin, Davis of Mass., Day, Dean, Dewitt, Dick, Dodd, Durfee, Edie, Edwards, Emrie, Fenton, Gallowey, Giddings, Gilbert, Granger, Grow, Hall of Mass., Harlan, Haven, Hodges, Holloway, Horton of N. Y., Horton of Ohio, Houghton, Kelsey, King, Knapp, Knight, Knowlton, Knox, Leister, Mace, Matteson, McCarty, Miller of N. Y., Morgan, Morrill, Mott, Murray, Nichols, Oliver of N. Y., Parker, Pearce, Pelton, Pennington, Petit, Phelps, Pike, Pringle, Purviance, Ritchie, Robbins, Roberts, Robinson, Rogers, Ruggles, Sapp, Scott, Sherman, Simmons, Spinner, Stanton, Strausbaugh, Tappan, Thorington, Thurston, Todd, Trafton, Wade, Wakeman, Walbridge, Waldron, Washburne of Wis., Washburne of Ill., Watson, Welch, Wood, Woodruff.

Mr. GROW moved a reconsideration of the vote, and to lay that motion on the table.

Unsuccessful motions were here made to adjourn and for a call of the House, &c., &c., by the friends of Mr. Whitfield, in order, as it was said, to postpone action on Mr. Grow's motion until the arrival of absentees.

At four o'clock various gentlemen paired off, hunger and fatigue serving as excuses.

MR CAMPBELL, of Ohio, remarked as a number of gentlemen on his side had gone to dinner, he thought it right the House should adjourn, but his motion was rejected.

Mr. MILLSON (dem.), of Va., said that he was not willing to be punished by being kept here because others chose to pair off. His motion for a call of the House prevailed, and 138 members answered to their names.

The doors were closed and excuses were heard for absenters, some of them being of a humorous character, excited excessive laughter.

During these proceedings Mr. MILLSON spoke of the exposure of the reputation of Congress to the ridicule of the people and the derision of the public press. He had always attempted to prevent struggles similar to that in which the House was now engaged.

Various propositions were then made.

Mr. SNEED (K. N.) of Tenn., proposed that the pending business be postponed and that members proceed, as heretofore, to select seats by lots.

Cries of "Agreed," "agreed," and accompanied with laughter.

Mr. QUITMAN (dem.) of Miss., thought that would be right. We are endeavoring, he said, to inflict some penalty on members for not being in their seats, and I don't know a better mode than to select our seats in their absence.

Laughter, and cries of "Good," "good," "agreed," "agreed," &c.

Mr HOUSTON (dem.) of Ala.—I'll go in for that if you continue to keep the doors closed.

No action was taken on the proposition.

The Sergeant-at-Arms was then, by order, directed to bring the absentees to the bar of the House.

Mr. JONES, (dem.) of Tenn., inquired whether while the Sergeant-at-Arms was executing the order those who had been here all the time could not get their dinners? (Laughter.)

The SPEAKER responded negatively.

While the Clerk was calling the roll, on motion to adjourn, he was frequently interrupted by the Sergeant-at-Arms announcing the arrests and production of certain absentees.

Several gentlemen humorously moved to take up the "criminal docket."

The absentees brought before the House were ordered to be discharged from custody on the payment of the fees of the Sergeant-at-Arms—two dollars each.

Cries of "Fork over," "fork over," and loud laughter all over the House.

Mr. MACE (K. N.) of Indiana, who was among those brought up, said he was willing to be discharged without payment of the fees, and accept as a substitute solitary confinement. (Laughter). He went home at half past three o'clock, as every orderly man should, leaving members here going out and taking a horn and placing themselves in such condition that they did not know what they were driving at (Laughter.)

Mr. TRAVSON (rep.) of Mass., did not think they should take advantage of his honesty. He had just returned from dinner when the Sergeant-at-Arms opened the door and let him in. He had not been arrested.

Mr. LENDERS (K. N.) of Mo., thought the fee cheap, and would cheerfully pay it.

Mr. HOUSTON (to those standing)—Sit down; I want to see the prisoners.

Mr. COBB (dem.) of Ga., would discharge the prisoners on their giving a pledge they would hereafter vote for an adjournment. (Laughter.)

At a quarter past seven a motion to adjourn prevailed by one majority.

Our Washington Correspondence.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 30, 1856

The New York Post Office—A Delegation from the New York Chamber of Commerce—Post Master General Campbell, Going to Rome—Is Wall Street to be Represented in the Cabinet.

The location of the Post office in your city seems to be a somewhat troublesome job, and between rival speculations and business interference much valuable time is sliding away. Yesterday a committee of highly respectable old fogy merchants, headed by James Lee, Esq. banker, made their appearance at the executive mansion, as a delegation from the New York Chamber of Commerce. Their object was to convince the President that the Post office should not be located above its present position, but I am afraid they have had their journey in vain. The principal argument used by these slow coaches was, that the location should be near the centre of banking and commercial business, or in other words, that the value of the correspondence, not the quantity should control. If the postal arrangements of the county was made solely for the benefit and advantage of the mercantile community, the reasoning might have some cogency in it, but the President takes a different view of the subject, and thinks the quantity, not the value, should control, and so the matter was ended. Mr. Mortimer Livingston, of your city, being here, was asked to join the committee, but he declined.

Speaking of Post office matters leads me to notice a rumor which I do not remember to have seen published, yet it has been current in certain circles for some time, and I think it worthy of credence. It is that the Postmaster General, Judge Campbell, will leave the Cabinet about the middle of January to become Minister to Vienna or to Rome, the latter to be raised from a Charge to a Minister resident, as authorized by statute last winter. In view of this, it is said Mr. Campbell has given up his house here, and his furniture has been sent to Philadelphia.

Amongst the Cabinet making, there is one gentleman who some usually well informed persons are satisfied will be strenuously urged on Mr. Buchanan, and that with force too, as Secretary of the Treasury. Who, think you, it is? A New Yorker too—it is not Hargy, or Dickinson, Tracy or Sickles, Seymour or Wood, but Mr. Erastus Corning, member of Congress elect from the Albany district. It is said that Mr. C. is an eminent merchant and financier. President of divers banks and railroads, and a man especially qualified for the Treasury. You may rest assured if New York has a Cabinet officer, Mr. Corning will be the man. Only think, a New York railroad operator in the Cabinet. We should then have Wall street transferred to Washington.

Important from New Granada.

ARRANGEMENT OF THE DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN NEW GRANADA AND ENGLAND.

We learn that advices have been received in this city from well informed sources in Bogota, that the difficulties between the New Granadian government and Mr. Griffiths, the British Minister, in relation to the payment of the McIntosh claim, have been amicably adjusted, and that no steps will be taken to effect a blockade of the ports of that republic by the British fleet.

The whole difficulty between the parties arose from a difference of opinion in regard to the proper time of payment by the New Granadian government of some back dues on this claim. The claim of Mr. McIntosh had been adjusted some years since, and a large portion of it paid. It was arranged at the time of the adjustment that the balance should be paid in bonds, which were to be received at the New Granadian custom houses in the proportion of ten per cent on the accruing duties. During the attempted revolution of Melo in 1854, the government in stress of funds was obliged to delay the acceptance of the McIntosh bonds in payment of the stipulated ten per cent of the duties. Their reception has since been resumed, and it was the payment of the back amounts that had been rejected during the revolutionary crisis, that constituted the point in dispute between the parties.

The arrangement of this matter restores the good feeling that had existed between the two governments.

City Intelligence.

CORRECT AND UNIFORM TIME FOR THE CITY—ELECTRIC CLOCKS.

There is a proposition now before the Board of Councilmen to furnish correct and uniform time to all the public clocks in the city by means of a new invention, patented by Professor Hall, of Cincinnati. Yesterday the Committee of Arts and Sciences of the Board of Councilmen, Wilson G. Hunt, Peter Cooper and other well-known citizens, proceeded to Centre street, opposite the Halls of Justice, where a model of the patent is on exhibition, to see its working, with a view to report upon the same. The invention proves to be a new and simple application of the electric current and seems to be very practicable. It consists of an ordinary clock keeping correct time. Upon the second shaft of the works is a wheel, the perimeter of which is divided into sixty compartments, alternately ivory and brass, the metal connecting with the body of the clock, and thence to one pole of the battery. The other pole is conducted through a telegraphic clock, and thence to a platina wire, which rests upon the periphery of the ivory and brass wheel. The telegraphic clock is composed of an electric magnet, with its armature which works into cog wheels, and like an ordinary clock performs its functions upon its face. As the first described clock in its ordinary action, revolves its second shaft, the platina wire touching by turns the brass and ivory, opens and closes the circuit of the galvanic battery; the armature over the electric magnet in the electric clock plays to and fro with the opening and closing of the circuit, and causes corresponding motion, second for second, with the governing clock. It is proposed to have one clock, stationed, say at the City Hall, which will have astronomical time, and will give the same not only to every public clock in the city, but also to every station house, bank, railway station, and to any private family that desires it. We have been for some time advocating a movement of this kind, and are glad to see it taken up in earnest. The Councilman or Alderman that will devise a perfect clock and time system for the city, and successfully carry it through, will deserve the gratitude and will receive the commendation due to the importance of the work. Telegraphic time is very much in use in France on the railways, but so far only the Erie road has anything of the kind in this country. It would save many dreadful accidents were something of the kind in universal use in this country.

FRENCH RECORDS.—The American Industrial Association of this city has obtained employment for these interesting exiles. In a few days, unless any of them in the meantime shall have obtained employment in the city, they will start for their new homes in Virginia, under the care of Mr Thomason, the Secretary of the association. A number of Italian and several English emigrants will accompany them, all of whom are in destitute circumstances, and gladly avail themselves of the benefits afforded them by this useful association. It is proposed to make this party, twenty one in number, the nucleus of an interesting and flourishing emigrant colony.

SAILING OF MISSIONARIES.—Mr. D. W. Burton and wife and Mr. M. Mair and wife, of the American Missionary Association, and Rev. D. K. Flickinger, Dr. W. B. Witt and Rev. Mr. Bilheimer, of the Board of Missions of the United Brethren in Christ, sailed from New York on Monday, Dec. 1, for Freetown, Sierra Leone, in the ship Thomas Watson, Elliott, master. Mr Burton and Mr. Mair and their wives will join the Mendi Mission. The others will remain at Freetown until they can select a location more interior

RECEIPT OF TAXES.—The amount of taxes received at the Tax Commissioner's office during the last week of November, was as follows:—

Monday, November	24	$166,000
Tuesday, "	25	205,000
Wednesday, "	26	240,000
Thursday, "	27	372,000
Friday, "	28	228,000
Saturday, "	29	767,000
Total		$1,988,000

The rush on Saturday and the increase of more than half a million of dollars over the receipts of the previous day, is owing to there being an addition of one per cent on all the taxes paid after that day.

BALLOON ASCENSION.—Mons. A. J. Morat made his long promised balloon ascension yesterday afternoon, at the Jefferson Gardens, corner of First avenue and Twenty-third street. It was a decided success. No accident transpired while the balloon was filling with gas, and the aeronaut shot up in mid air, to the great delight of a vast crowd of lookers on. The day was mild, with very little wind stirring, and the balloon drifted now east, then west, as the currents of air struck it; but it slowly drifted to the north as it shot skyward. The streets and house-tops were full of people looking at the ascension, but this display did not excite the attention usually bestowed upon air voyages of this kind, from the fact that but few people knew that anything of the kind was about to take place. The affair was successful, however, and if all went well Mons. Morat was landed somewhere in Westchester county. We shall undoubtedly hear of him to day.

TRIPLETS—SOMETHING NICE FOR THE LADIES.—The readers of newspapers are often edified by accounts of women in the rural districts giving birth to three and four infants at a time, but females who live in cities are rarely so prolific. Our Brooklyn neighbors, however, are determined to show the world that some things can be done as well as others, three babies at a birth included. On Thursday evening last the lady of Mr. W—m R—r, residing in Jay street, Brooklyn, notified her husband that an interesting domestic event was about to take place, and the family physician, Dr. Murphy, was accordingly called upon to officiate. In due time Mr. R—r was presented with a son, for which he was duly thankful, as all fathers should be. At the expiration of fifty-four hours from the birth of the first child another son was born, and shortly after a third son was added to the family group—all as alike, the doctor says, as one egg is to an other. The mother and three sons were at last accounts all doing "as well as could be expected." One child in a family is a blessing; two might be endured, but it is a question whether three at a birth is not slightly overdoing the thing. Mr. R—r should immediately migrate to some district of country where provisions are plenty and population sparse.

FIRE IN CANNON STREET.—About 12 o'clock on Sunday night, a fire broke out in the soap and candle manufactory of John Halley, No. 52 Cannon street. The firemen were promptly on the ground and soon extinguished the fire. Damage to stock and machinery about $1,000—no insurance. The building is owned by Jules Decasse. Damage about $150—no insurance.

FIRE IN BEAVER STREET.—About 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon a fire was discovered around the hot air register in the room of the Board of Brokers, in Beaver street. The Fire Department were quickly on the ground, but the fire was extinguished with a few pails of water. The furnace was put in the building about six weeks since by Culver, Simonds & Co., 52 Cliff street.

SUICIDE AND GAMBLING.—We learn from the Semler, Ala., *Republican* that Dr. B. H. Perkins, of Randolph county, Ga., committed suicide by severing an artery in the wrist on the night of the 5th instant, at Americus, Ga. Loss of money at a gambling table is assigned as the proximate cause of the rash act. We also learn from the same paper that a meeting of the citizens of Americus was held at the Court House in that town, on the 10th instant, for the purpose of taking into consideration the circumstances which led to the death of Dr. Perkins. The Mayor of the town presided, and the meeting, after being addressed by several prominent citizens, adopted resolutions strongly condemning the practice of gambling, and those who allowed it to be carried on in their houses. They moved the formation of a vigilance committee, whose duty should be to watch closely the disturbers of the peace and violators of the laws in the town, collect reliable evidence, and prosecute them indiscriminately. The committee also strongly recommend the formation of an anti gambling society, whose duty should be to use every effort to put an end to gambling in the town. The resolutions were unanimously adopted, and steps were taken to act in accordance with the recommendations.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.

Two Vetoes from the Mayor—The City Hall Job and the Partizan List of Commissioners of Deeds Checked—The Union Monopoly Ferry Company Must Commute.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

The Board of Aldermen held the first meeting of the December session last evening, the President in the chair. Several petitions for the remission of taxes, &c., were received and referred. By a report from the Croton Aqueduct Department it appears that the unexpended balance on the 30th of November was $154,290 56.

VETOES FROM THE MAYOR ON THE PLAN OF THE NEW CITY HALL AND THE APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS OF DEEDS.

The following message was received from the Mayor:—

MAYOR'S OFFICE, New York, Dec. 1, 1856.

TO THE HONORABLE THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN.—I return the resolutions proposing the adoption by the Common Council of the plans for a new city hall, presented by S. E. & J. Buckman, without approval. Without intending to throw any obstacle in the way of the speedy erection of a new City Hall, I cannot give my assent to so important a step as that of definitely determining the plans which shall be adopted, without being fully satisfied that they are in all respects the best and most appropriate. To decide definitely the plans for a building so extensive as to size, so difficult and intricate in the proper arrangement of its interior design, of so much interest to the character of the city in its external architectural appearance, and so great in its cost, under the most careful and judicious expenditure of money, is one of the most important questions that has come before me for my decision since holding the office of Mayor. It involves considerations in which citizens of all classes are interested, and should be examined and decided with a commensurate judgment, and only by those who are fully qualified for the duty. It is not an act of ordinary legislation appertaining to a mere question of every day routine, which any man of common intelligence is capable of acting upon but it is a subject requiring a thorough practical and scientific knowledge of architecture, a most enlarged and liberal views of form and beauty and adaptation in the construction of public edifices of the largest class, and a just appreciation of the necessity of making the additional burden about to be placed upon the tax payers as light as a proper attention to the object will permit. With these views as to the importance of the decision which shall fix the proposed new City Hall, and the qualifications of those to whom should be entrusted the power I find it difficult to bring myself to the conclusion that the members of the Common Council are thus competent. I doubt whether the two Boards who have voted in favor of these plans possess the requisites I have described as necessary to a judicious and intelligent conclusion thereon. I am at least confident of my own unfitness, and therefore cannot say by approving the Buckman plan, that it is the best, when in fact I am ignorant of the simple elements of architectural science and am not capable of giving even an intelligent opinion upon the subject. In several communications made to this and the last Common Council I have called especial attention to the necessity of the speedy construction of a new City Hall, and in that of the 4th February last I recommended the appointment of a common to be constituted partly of architects of undoubted superiority in their profession, and the balance of citizens of well known intelligence and integrity, to whom should be entrusted the whole subject, with full power to decide upon the plans and to erect the structure; this commission to serve without compensation, and to be composed of men whose characters will be a guarantee of honesty in the expenditure of money I have not changed these views. If this recommendation should be concurred in, the public confidence would be secured in the plans as well as the expenditure, which are very essential in a public work of this magnitude. It may be well for me to add that no measure for the erection of this building can receive my sanction which will not in all respects be free from any suspicion of jobbing or corruption. In the conclusions to which I have arrived in the disapproval of the Buckman plans I wish it understood that I make no objections to the plans themselves. Facilities have been afforded me for a full examination of the drawings with explanations by Mr. Ira Buckman, and I am not prepared to say that they should not be finally accepted, but having no confidence in the knowledge of myself or the Common Council on subjects of this character, I cannot venture upon a decision which will have the effect to reject all other plans however meritorious or superior to them. For these reasons I respectfully return the resolutions without approval. FERNANDO WOOD, Mayor.

The communication was ordered to be laid on the table and take the usual course to be printed.

THE COMMISSIONERS OF DEEDS.

The Mayor also sent to the Board the annexed message:

MAYOR'S OFFICE, NEW YORK, Dec. 1, 1856.

TO THE HONORABLE THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN.—It is with reluctance that I return to the Common Council the resolution to confirm certain persons Commissioners of Deeds, but am compelled to do so from a sense of public duty. The office of a Commissioner of Deeds is an important one, requiring not only integrity, that its authority may not be abused and used for an improper purpose, but also requiring sufficient capacity to properly perform its functions. Files to estates of great value be thus jeopardized by the ignorance or negligence of these officers. This list presented to me for approval provides for the appointment of eighty nine commissioners, of which seventy-two are new appointments in place of others now holding the commissioners, making only seventeen re appointments. Without disparaging the qualifications and claims of these new appointments, I find among those superseded many of the oldest and most reliable commissioners in the city; and also find among the non appointed or disappointed applicants many of our best and worthy citizens. I can see no good reason for thus removing long tried and faithful officers, and substituting in some cases young and inexperienced men without claims or qualifications. One case presents itself very forcibly to my notice and which I do not feel at liberty to assent to. It is the withdrawal of the commission from William Mackellar, a clerk in the office of the Chief of Police, before whom, as Commissioner of Deeds, the depositions are made upon which charges are preferred against policemen. There is no other commissioner in that office, and if his authority is thus taken away to administer oaths it will interfere very materially with the proper discharge of my duties as head of the Police Department. To this I cannot consent, and if there was no other objection to the resolution, this one would be sufficient to warrant my disapproval. Having given the members of the Common Council who appeared to have the especial charge of getting up the list of appointments notice that I should not approve of the removal of Mr Mackeller for the reasons here stated, I am less reluctant to veto the whole number than I would have been had this timely notice been omitted. If other appointments fit to be made thus fall, the fault lies with the Common Council, and not with myself. All the appointments being comprised within one resolution, I am forced to approve or disapprove the whole, as one proceeding. I regret this to be compelled to reject many whom it would have given me pleasure to confirm in their appointments. FERNANDO WOOD, Mayor.

The PRESIDENT ruled the veto on the appointment of the Commissioners of Deeds out as irregular, inasmuch as the Mayor had no right to send it to the Board; the law states that the Mayor and Recorder are not members of the Board of Aldermen.

Alderman HERRICK asked why it should be ruled out? The Mayor had sent a respectful message or veto, and he did not see how the ruling of the President should be sustained.

Alderman CLANCY said that the act of 1832 says that every act of the Common Council shall be submitted to the Mayor. He suggested that the paper be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDENT said—The Chair has ruled it out of order.

A German Alderman CLANCY said he should reluctantly appeal from the decision of the Chair

Alderman ELY, BRIGGS and HERRICK made some few observations.

Alderman CLANCY moved that the paper from the Mayor be received.

Alderman VOORHIS had no objection to the reception of the paper as a courtesy to the Mayor; but as he believed the Mayor had no authority in the matter, it ought to be referred to the Law Committee.

Alderman FULMER suggested the idea of sending the veto back to the Mayor, whom he facetiously designated as the "Emperor of New York."

The CHAIR put the question—"Shall the veto be accepted?"—when there appeared twelve for its reception, and four against it:—

AYES—Aldermen Healy, Hofmire, Clancey, Tucker, Voorhis, Steers, Jackson, Monaghan, Ely, Herrick, McConkey and Varian—12.

NAYS—Briggs, the President (Barker), Fulmer and Valentine—4.

The veto was then, on motion of Alderman BRIGGS, referred to the Law Committee, by a vote of 9 to 8.

The Board resolved to meet every Monday and Thursday during the present month; in order that the business of the session should be finished up.

A communication was received from the Comptroller in relation to the Bureau of Arrears. It was ordered to be laid on the table and printed.

THE CENTRAL PARK.

It was resolved, on motion of the Alderman of the Eighth ward, that the Commissioners of the Central Park be, and they are hereby requested to report to this Board, at its third meeting in this session, a full statement of its affairs, in detail, from the date of its organization to the 1st of December, together with all the expenses and liabilities incurred by the Commissioners. Adopted

The report of the Committee on Finance, in favor of remitting taxes of several parties on real estate, was adopted.

The action of the Board of Councilmen, in favor of increasing the salary of the Clerk of the Board of Fire Commissioners, from $500 to $800 a year, was taken up and concurred in.

BLOOMINGDALE SQUARE.

Alderman HERRICK called up document No. 22, which was partly read:—

This square was laid out on the Commissioners' map of the city in 1836, for the purpose of affording a place of recreation to the citizens on the western side of the city. This proposed square extends from Eighth to Ninth avenues, and from Fifty-third to Fifty seventh street, and embraces about twenty three acres of land, and lies at the base of the Central Park, and, consequently, the same area of land assessed for Bloomingdale square is also assessed for Central Park. The amount of the assessment for Bloomingdale square is about four hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and the same region being also assessed for the Central Park to a large amount. These sums, with the assessments which will be levied for the building of sewers, and the grading, paving and flagging of the various streets which traverse this assessed region, will subject the property to heavier charges than the owners care, or equitably should be called on to pay. The confirmation of the Commissioner's report of estimate and assessment in this matter has been postponed, from time to time, by the Supreme Court, for a period of about three years, so as to ascertain the fate of the Central Park, it being represented to the Court, and the Court believing that should the Central Park be carried through, Bloomingdale square would be quite unnecessary for the purpose of light, air or recreation to the citizens in that portion of the city.

The fate of the Central Park being now fixed, it was considered by the members of the Committee on Lands and Places of both Boards that the opening of Bloomingdale square was rendered needless. The Board directed the square to be closed.

THE UNION FERRY COMPANY—THEY MUST GIVE COMMUTATION TICKETS.

Alderman FOX presented the following report:—

That in pursuance of the resolution (passed this Board of Aldermen, Nov. 7) the committee conferred with the officers of the Union Ferry Company and received every courtesy and civility necessary for a full and proper examination of the books and affairs of the company.

The company furnished your committee with a statement of the profits and expenditures, together with a communication in defence of their course in refusing to commute, both of which are annexed.

And your committee although having numerous business engagements have devoted a great deal of time to the consideration of this subject, and are clearly satisfied after reading the lease between the city and the Ferry Company, and with a full knowledge of the facts, that this Company are bound to commute at the rates mentioned in the schedule attached to the respective cases.

The words of the lease read that the said Company "shall not, and will not, during the said term, raise the rates of commutation above the present prices, as appears by the schedule thereof hereunto annexed."

It must at once be seen, the only just and true inference that can be drawn from these words is, that at the time the lease was made, it was understood that the system of commutation was to be continued, and the words above recited were intended for the express purpose of more fully protecting passengers against any design or overcharge of the company thereafter. But the custom of company has recognized and established the law showing the construction of this clause and governing their action.

Ever since the running of these ferries to Brooklyn the system of commutation has been maintained. When the ferriage for crossing was four cents and the population comparatively small—and again when it was reduced to one cent, commutation was extensively practised, all the ferries running out of the city of New York to the cities and towns of Long Island, Staten Island and New Jersey, etc., are obliged to and do commute, and your committee cannot see the propriety or justice of permitting the Union Ferry Company to be exempt from the general rule.

If this is intended to be a test question for all the ferries, it may as well be met now as at some future period.

Besides this, the company bind themselves in the lease to conduct and manage said ferries in conformity with any resolution, ordinance &c., that may be passed by the Common Council.

Your committee are thus authorized to declare that according to the terms of the lease, the said company are obliged to commute with citizens desiring it, or else forfeit their right to run said ferry.

The people, both of this city and Brooklyn, remonstrate earnestly against the proposed infringement of their rights by the ferry company, in refusing to commute. The officers in the statement annexed plead in extenuation of their conduct that they must raise a revenue sufficient to pay the stock holders at the expiration of the lease.

Now, as your Committee view it, the Common Council have nothing whatever to do with the wish or necessity of the company to raise a revenue. It is sufficient to know that, by the terms of their agreement they have agreed to commute, and this agreement the citizens expect us to have enforced as the company have taking the benefit of the annexed account, are abundantly able to comply therewith. This subject of the revenue to be raised would have to come before the Common Council in a different shape.

Your Committee, therefore, as the expression of their opinion would recommend for adoption the following resolution, viz:—

Resolved, That the Union Ferry Company be and they are hereby directed to commute with passengers as heretofore, and in case of the refusal of said company so to do, the counsel to the Corporation be and he is authorised and directed within ten days after the passage of this resolution, to take the necessary legal measures to carry the same into effect.

To the report was appended the following:—

CURRENT RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES OF THE FERRIES FROM MAY 1, 1855, TO MAY 1, 1856.

Receipts.

At gates	$559 930 00
For commutation, cart tickets, milk wagons, &c.	48,610 31
Rents of real estate	10,801 44
Total	$619,241 75

Expenses.

Wages of men	$182 677 30	
Salaries	15,700 00	
Rents	84 050 00	
Coal	112 963 92	
Dividend on capital ($800,000) at 8 per cent	64,000 00	
	$459 340 22	
Interest on loans and discounts	4,775 56	
Tax on capital	8,817 67	
Croton water	4,131 00	
Gas	4,988 14	
Lamp, machinery and paint oils	5,489 64	
New cabins for two boats and part of another, and a new boiler	13,413 08	
Repairs of