THE NEW YORK HERALD.

WHOLE NO. 7793. SUNDAY MORNING, JANUARY 3, 1858. PRICE TWO CENTS.

ARRIVAL OF THE NIAGARA AT HALIFAX.

THREE DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

IMPROVEMENT IN CONSOLS.

MORE FAILURES.

REPORTED AMNESTY IN FRANCE.

Launch of the Leviathan Postponed sine die.

ONE CENT DECLINE IN COTTON, &c., &c., &c.

HALIFAX, Jan. 2, 1858.

The royal mail steamship Niagara, Capt. Wickham, from Liverpool on Saturday, the 19th ultimo, arrived at this port at an early hour this morning, *en route* for Boston, where she will be due early on Sunday afternoon.

The Collins steamship Atlantic, from New York on the 8th ultimo, arrived at Liverpool on the 16th December, at 8:30 P. M.

The news by this arrival, except in a commercial way, is of little importance.

The Niagara brings £7,000 for Boston, and £20,000 for Halifax.

She reports: December 30, at 5 45 P. M., Cape Race bearing north, distant two miles, fired two rockets and a blue light, and threw over board the despatch for the Associated Press. [The news yacht was not out at the time the Niagara passed Cape Race, her repairs not having been completed.]

The Niagara, at 6 P. M., yesterday, 1st inst., passed the Canada, hence for Liverpool.

There is nothing later from India.

The Bank of France has reduced its rates to the uniform figure of six per cent.

The commercial crisis continued very severe in the north of Europe, but at Hamburg affairs had begun to improve.

Messrs. Powell & Son, of London and Manchester, warehousemen, had failed. Their liabilities are heavy.

The English money market, however, is gradually getting easier, particularly among the discount houses. The applications at the Bank were light.

Financial difficulties had arisen among the woollen manufacturers. Messrs. Cheesebrough & Sons, one of the largest firms in that line in Yorkshire, had suspended, and many others were expected to be involved.

The French government had imposed a duty on foreign brandies.

The American Submarine Company have abandoned the attempt to raise the sunken ships at Sebastopol.

In the Liverpool cotton market prices had declined a half penny per pound, particularly for the new crop. The market closed with a rather better demand. Sales of the week 28,000 bales.

Messrs. Richardson, Spence & Co. report flour quiet, but steady. Western Canal, 23s. a 25s.; Philadelphia and Baltimore, 25s. a 26s.; Ohio, 27s. a 28s. Wheat firm and slightly higher, the improvement being mainly on the finer qualities; red, 6s. 2d. a 7s. 1d; white, 6s. 10d. a 8s. Corn firm; mixed, 33s. a 33s. 6d.; yellow, 33s. 6d. a 34s.; white, 37s. a 38s.

Messrs. Bigland, Althya & Co., Richardson, Spence & Co., James McHenry and others quote beef heavy and irregular. Pork dull. Bacon dull and slightly lower. Lard heavy and nominal. Tallow quiet—butchers', 51s. a 52s. Cheese advanced 2s. a 5s.

In the Liverpool market sugar had declined 6d. a 1s.

Money was slightly easier in London. Consols for account closed at 92¼ a 92¼.

American stocks were generally dull, and prices without much change.

The Manchester market was dull, and prices of goods had considerably declined.

ENGLAND.

On the 16th there was a further decided tendency towards relaxation in the London money market.

The failures were announced of Edward Smith, wool stapler, of London, with large liabilities, and Saalfield Brothers, woolen manufacturers, of Leeds. Liabilities £200,000.

On the 17th confidence was more apparent, under the influence of the Atlantic's news and specie.

Besides the suspension of Cheseborough & Son, of Bradford, that of the Dartford and Gravesend Bank was announced. Liabilities £20,000.

A new loan has been authorized by the Burgesses of Hamburg, where the rate of discount has receded to seven and nine per cent.

The suspensions were announced of Schulte & Schemman, of Hamburg, and James Holmes, of Kidderminster, the latter for £35,000.

The launch of the Leviathan has been postponed *sine die*.

A memorial, very influentially signed, had been presented to Lord Palmerston infavor of representation in Parliament of the educated classes.

FRANCE.

It was rumored that a general amnesty for newspaper offences would be proclaimed on New Year's day, and that the decree of exile against Generals Bedeau and Changarnier is to be repealed.

BELGIUM.

The Second Chamber had passed a resolution in favor of the repeal of the Usury laws.

SWEDEN.

A number of new and important failures are announced. Government proposed to borrow 12,000,000 thalers to assist the merchants.

THE LATEST NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY.

The *Times* City Article notes an advance of ¼ per cent in the funds. The Bank returns show an increase in bullion of £1,381,366.

In the Stock Exchange the supply of money is abundant, and in the discount market the best paper can readily be negotiated at 8½ to 9 per cent. A reduction of the maximum rate at the bank seems probable before Thursday next. At Hamburg the crisis appears partially subsiding, the rate of discount for short paper having fallen to six per cent. Yesterday the bills were returned of Dray & Co., engineers and agricultural implement makers.

PASSENGERS BY THE NIAGARA.

Captain Dennis, lady and child; Mrs Corbett and daughter, Mr Lourl and lady, Mrs Mourchet, Mrs Fielding, child and infant; Mrs and Miss Ash, Captain Williams, Mrs Parsons, Messrs Hunter, Mariand, Fieldings, Smith, Holterman, Rector, Means, Marwick, Mencke, Bouvel, Sinclair, Smith, Heath, Joseph, Canevaro, Barron, Taffe, Cuddy, Harrison, Wilkinson, Wolfe (2), Turner, Grant, Thery, Bliss, Elizabeil.

New Jersey Items.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE OF A PHILADELPHIAN.—A young man, named Burgess Bradley, a student from one of the medical colleges in Philadelphia, attempted to commit suicide by cutting his throat, in Jersey City, on Thursday evening. He came to New York from Philadelphia, without the knowledge of his family, on Wednesday last; and on Thursday evening he went over to Jersey City and called at the gymnasium on the corner of Gregory street and Washington place, kept by Mr. Samuel Bowers, with whom he (Bradley) had been long acquainted. He appeared melancholy and dejected, which was noticed by Mr. Bowers, who asked him the cause of his low spirits, but received no satisfactory answer. After having been there for several hours, and while he was sauntering around the room, he made a sudden gesture and fell to the floor. Upon going to him it was found that he had made an attempt to cut his throat, and had inflicted a wound upon the right side of his neck, about four inches in length, from which blood was flowing profusely. Mr. Bowers immediately went for a physician, and upon returning, and just as they were approaching him, he again raised the knife and stabbed himself in the abdomen. He was very weak from loss of blood, but upon examination his wounds proved to be not of a fatal nature. He was removed to the Philadelphia Hotel, his friends telegraphed to, and he was on Wednesday morning taken home to Philadelphia by his brother. The cause of the act is a mystery, and he refuses to explain.

CITY PRISON REPORT.—The City Marshal of Jersey City reports 87 commitments to the prison during the month of December, for offences, as follows:—

Drunkenness	59	Vagrancy	3
Robbery	1	Violating city ordinances	2
Stealing	5	Gambling	3
Suspicion of theft	1	Fighting	2
Assault	7		—
Malicious mischief	4	Total	87

The nativity of the prisoners was—Ireland, 56; England, 9; Germany, 11; Scotland, 2; United States, 10.

Coroners' Office.

FATAL RESULT OF A FIGHT—AN EX-POLICEMAN THE VICTIM.

Michael Sheehan, an ex-policeman, residing at No. 7 Rector street, died on Thursday from the effects of a severe beating received on the night of the 22d ult., at the hands of some rowdies in the porter house corner of Pearl and Dover streets. It was at first supposed that deceased had died from natural causes, and a certificate of death to that effect was given by the physician who attended deceased, but the friends and relatives of Sheehan were apprised of the manner in which deceased received his injuries in time to stop the funeral and notify the Coroner in relation to the occurrence. Coroner Connery took charge of the case on Friday morning, and proceeded to investigate the matter. Upon examining some witnesses it was shown that on the night of the fight, deceased, in company with three others, was in the drinking saloon corner of Pearl and Dover streets; that deceased asked the party to drink, and in payment for the liquors purchased he tendered the barkeeper a two dollar bill on the Shoe and Leather Bank. The barkeeper refused to take the bill, on the ground that it was a counterfeit, when Sheehan told him that it was not. A war of words then ensued between Sheehan, the barkeeper, and a man named Murray, which finally resulted in a general row. Deceased was beaten and kicked severely. He stayed in the porter house all night, and in the morning he was conveyed to his home in Rector street, where he was obliged to keep his bed until 8 o'clock on Thursday morning, when he died. The Coroner ordered a post mortem examination of the body, which was performed by Drs. Finnel and Van Lier, who gave their testimony in relation to the condition of the body, as follows:—

Drs. Finnel and Van Lier, being duly sworn, depose and say—We have made a post mortem examination of the body of Michael Sheehan, at No. 7 Rector street. From the history of the case, together with the appearance of the body, we are of opinion that deceased came to his death from violence received on the night of the 22d of December, 1857.

The inquest will be continued to-day, when it is expected the case will be concluded. Warrants have been issued for the arrest of the accused parties; and the Coroner, it is said, will examine closely into the conduct of the physician who tried to hush the matter up by giving an improper certificate of death.

FATAL ACCIDENT TO A FIREMAN.—Coroner Gamble held an inquest yesterday, at the New York Hospital, upon the body of a fireman, named Maurice Griffiths, who died from the effects of injuries received some three weeks ago, by being run over by Engine No. 4, while running down Broadway to a fire in the Fifth district. Deceased, it appeared, had hold of the engine rope, when he slipped and fell to the ground. The wheels passed over his legs and fractured both of them. Verdict, "accidental death." Deceased was a married man, and had two children.

City Intelligence.

SWEARING IN NEW OFFICIALS.—The following newly elected city officials made their appearance at the County Clerk's office yesterday and took the oath of office. Bonds will not be filed before Wednesday:—

Edward C. West	Surrogate.
George G. Barnard	Recorder.
Peter B. Sweeney	District Attorney.
William Miner	Register.
Thomas C. Acton	Deputy Register.

SURROGATE'S OFFICE.—Edward C. West, the new Surrogate, entered upon the duties of his office yesterday, Jan. 2. It is not the intention of Mr. West to make any change in the *personnel* of his office, as the business of the office is of a character which requires experienced clerks. What changes he may see fit to make in time will depend on circumstances.

CLOSING OF THE EVENING SCHOOLS.—These schools, which were closed for the holidays, will be re-opened to-morrow. They are under the supervision of the Evening School Committee of the Board of Education, which consists of seven members, of whom Mr. Geo. White is chairman. Some idea can be formed of the arduous nature of the duties required of the Commissioners who form this Committee, when it is stated that there is an attendance of boys and girls, and adults of both sexes, equal in number to one-sixth of the attendance at day school. For the purpose of a more efficient exercise of the supervision necessary for their good government, the Committee divide the city into seven districts, each Commissioner taking the more immediate charge of visiting the schools in his district, devoting his evenings frequently to school matters, when he might be enjoying the comforts of his own fireside; at other times, both day and evening, attending meetings of the Committee or of the Board of Education on general business. There are thousands of young men and women in our city who might avail themselves of the advantages of evening schools. During the last term young women servants, and old ones too, who did not know their letters, have learned to read and write; the same with young men. Bookkeeping has been taught in nearly all the schools. Mechanical, architectural and free hand drawing, has been also taught in many of the schools. Very many foreign-born citizens, but more particularly Germans, have attended all the schools for the purpose of attaining a more correct knowledge of reading and writing the English language, and have made most excellent progress; many of them are scholars in their native language, and graduates of European universities, but being engaged in business during the day, are glad to avail themselves of the benefits of our evening school system instead of employing their winter evenings in an unprofitable or immoral manner. The hard times have had a tendency to reduce the attendance during the last term, but even to those who are out of employment our well warmed and lighted comfortable schools are very attractive—with all their advantages of competent teachers, books, stationery, drawing instruments and materials, and occasionally lectures and addresses by visiters, and not unfrequently impromptu concerts, for which the pianofortes already in the schools are made to add to the effect. At the close of the term there are generally some exhibitions given in the schools of the progress of the pupils, at which the citizens congregate, and certificates and prize books are given by some of the School Commissioners. These are generally very pleasing occasions. One of them took place at the Nineteenth ward school, in Fifty-first street, which deserves notice for the interest it elicited; a large number of the citizens of the ward and other visiters assembled to witness the exercises, which consisted of the examination of a class of forty in bookkeeping and a large class of one hundred and twenty Germans in the English language, besides many recitations and musical pieces. At the conclusion an address was delivered in the English language by one of the German pupils, a young man who had graduated in a German University, returning thanks to the Evening School Committee, and especially to Mr. Farley, Commissioner of the Nineteenth ward, who has charge, of the up town district evening schools, for his attention to the interests of the school and to the interest he took in the success of the German class. The Yorkville male and female evening school, with about 300 pupils, was closed by Commissioner McKean with considerable *éclat*.

Theatrical, Musical, &c.

BROADWAY THEATRE.—The equestrians, acrobats elephant, tigers, &c., still prove highly attractive at this house. The programme for to-morrow evening has been entirely re-arranged.

NIBLO'S.—The amusements to-morrow will comprise the pantomine of "Robert and Bertrand," evolutions on the tight rope by M'lle Zanfretta, and the new spectacle of the "Golden Egg."

BOWERY.—The renowned equestrian drama entitled "Putnam" is to be revived to-morrow evening. It will be followed by feats of equestrianism, and the "Scourge of the Ocean."

BURTON'S.—The extravaganza of the "Great Gun Trick," Brougham's last burlesque, "Columbus," and "You're Another" will to-morrow night present Messrs. Mathews, Burton and Brougham in a series of comical characters.

WALLACK'S.—That great favorite with the fun loving community, Mr. T. B. Johnston, is a candidate for a benefit to-morrow, when the chief artists are to play in the "Poor of New York."

LAURA KEENE'S.—Tom Taylor's new comedy, called "An Unequal Match," is to be produced for the first time, and with a strong cast, to-morrow. The burlesque of "Harlequin Blue Beard" follows.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—The grand Thalberg festival is to be continued to-morrow afternoon and evening, in the course of which the great pianist, and Mme. La Grange, Messrs. Vieuxtemps, Formes, and other artists, perform in concert with the members of the Philharmonic Society.

AMERICAN MUSEUM.—The exciting drama called "Temptation, or the Irish Emigrant," is to be performed to-morrow afternoon, and the admired spectacle of "Valentine and Orson" at night.

GEO. CHRISTY AND WOOD'S MINSTRELS tender various burlesques and songs for to-morrow night, besides the farce of "New Year Calls," in which Messrs. G. Holland and G. Christy perform.

THE BROTHERS BRYANT issue a bill for the coming week that is well stocked with mirth-provoking dances, melodies, &c. The "Golden Kingdom" is to be the afterpiece to-morrow.

THE BUCKLEYS have closed 585 Broadway, and will rest till the 11th instant, when they propose opening the favorite Ethiopian Hall, 444 Broadway, late George Christy and Wood's.

ARCTIC REGIONS.—The paintings illustrative of Dr. Kane's perilous researches in the Arctic regions are still on exhibition at Empire Hall.

THEATRE ROYAL.—At Wheatley's Arch street theatre, Philadelphia, a new piece by Mr. O. S. Leland of this city has been produced. It is called "Beatrice," and the chief characters seem to have been (according to the *Press*) suggested by Bulwer's "My Novel." Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Davenport and Mr. Wheatley were in the cast, and the play is said to have been entirely successful. Mrs. Bowers is doing well at the Walnut with Bourcicault's "Violet." At Boston, Miss Sallie St. Clair is starring at the Howard Athenæum, and is praised by the journals. At Richmond, Miss Avonia Jones had a complimentary benefit on Monday evening last. Miss Eliza Logan is playing at Crisp's theatre, Memphis, Tennessee. Our correspondent at Cape Town, Cape of Good Hope, writes us (24th October) that "Mr. J. T. Perry, formerly of the Boston Museum and the Chatham theatre, New York, is now fulfilling an engagement at the theatre in Cape Town. They have performances three nights in a week. The 'Lady of Lyons' was performed last night to a tolerably decent house. Admission to the dress circle one English pound."

NEW YEAR'S DAY.

THE CELEBRATION IN THE METROPOLIS.

MAYOR TIEMANN VISITED BY HIS FRIENDS—THE BUILDING CROWDED—LUDICROUS INCIDENTS, ETC.

Before ten o'clock, New Year's Day, there was a very general march from all parts of New York to the City Hall. It was announced the day preceding that the new Mayor would be in the Governor's room from that hour till two P. M., in order to see and be seen by his friends. At ten o'clock, therefore, the porches, stairs, lobbies and galleries were thronged by people of all classes, whose humming and tramping fully expressed the desire of seeing and speaking with their new chief magistrate. The minutes passed away, the crowds increased, but still the Mayor had not made his appearance at half-past ten. In the meantime our reporter had with some difficulty made his way to the door of the Governor's room, where, after some hesitation, he was admitted to the room and to the society of a few privileged individuals Five minutes more and there was a sudden increase of the din outside, and cries of "Here he is," "Now he comes," "A happy new year," "Make way there"—amidst which the massive door suddenly flew open, and discovered to the quiet few inside the room the faces of the hundreds in the lobby, as they strained their eyes looking towards the door; and his Honor the Mayor, who, dressed in a plain suit of fine black cloth, and accompanied by the Deputy Superintendent of Police and Mr. Phillips, President of the Board of Councilmen, entered the magnificent and comfortable apartment. By the advice of the Deputy Superintendent, and after Mr. Tiemann had cordially shaken hands with all in the room, and received and returned the usual New Year congratulations, he retired to an ante-room on the left side of the larger apartment. The arrangements were made in a few moments, and were these:—

The Mayor was to stand in the centre of the ante-room and the citizens were to be admitted by the door where he had entered, and from thence pass along the large room into the ante-room, where they were to be seen and spoken to by his Honor, after which they were to move out by a door leading into the ante-room, and thus prevent the place from being overcrowded.

The police now took their stands at the different entrances and along the line where the populace were to pass, and all things being now ready the doors were opened. Notwithstanding all the efforts of the police at the entrance to the large room to keep things regular, the enthusiastic multitude burst in like a flood and not only filled the large apartment but pressed the guards at the second doorway so hard that it was only by the most strenuous efforts on the part of the police they could be restrained from filling the ante-room. But the closing of the first door and the motion of the line of men past the Mayor and out of the third door soon made matters all right, and perfect order now prevailed. From this time, which was twenty-four minutes to eleven, one continuous stream of men flowed past Mr. Tiemann till two o'clock, the time for closing the doors, arrived. Each one as he passed along shook the hand of the new Mayor, which was continually kept in motion by this means, and then wished him a happy new year and added any further remark if time permitted and he felt so disposed. Some jocular incidents occurred as the people passed his Honor. Some lovers of art would be so deeply absorbed in admiring the beauty of the paintings or the elegance of the furniture which adorn the room that they would sail along past the Mayor without either observing himself or his friendly outstretched hand, and then they would find themselves suddenly outside the door, looking amazed, and wondering how it could be possible that the new Mayor was either invisible or unwilling to fulfil his promise of receiving them at the City Hall, while the portion of the multitude who were in the secret of the joke would add to their astonishment by bursts of the most unexplainable and uncontrolled laughter. Others would manage to get out of the line, and after looking here and there, and jostling the Mayor on all sides, would be handed about from one policeman to another, till they again found themselves moving along with the crowd, and in the height of their confusion and over anxiety to find the distinguished person whom they desired to see, would move out to leave others to laugh at them and to give way to their reflections. Thus people of all kinds passed by, the rich and the poor, the old and the young, and by no means a small sprinkling of ladies. One blind man, stooped with age, made his way up stairs, and being placed in line with the rest, and groping his way with a stick, shook the Mayor's hand warmly and was conducted the remainder of the way by the police. A naturalized citizen happened some how or other to miss his way and get out of the crowd. After mistaking, first the reporters one after the other for the Mayor, and silently and respectfully bowing to each, he appeared not to be exactly satisfied, and continued to move about, jostling every one who came in his way and knocking against the Mayor two or three times. Suddenly his Honor turned round, as if to say, this is strange, when our new acquaintance sharply asked, "Where is the Mayor?" "I am the Mayor," returned Mr. Tiemann, and the stranger impulsively grasped his forelock, pulled his head half way to the ground, and vanished. Even the Mayor himself had not firmness to resist the temptation to give way to laughter on this occasion. Another person, in an ebullition of feeling, and one who appeared to be the bone and sinew of a democrat, made quite a little speech to his Honor, and might have made a long one, had not the Deputy Superintendent abruptly informed him that time did not permit him to remain. Occasionally, personal acquaintances of the Mayor would come forward; and then such expressions as "this is the first time I came to see a Mayor" would be overheard, as well as a response of a very appropriate nature from Mr. Tiemann.

The Mayor on his part looked well. Behind him, in a chair, sat his aged father, Mr. Anthony Tiemann, whose wrinkled countenance beamed with delight. Around him were a large circle of friends and relatives. A continued smile lighted the good-natured and intelligent face of Mr. Tiemann, and he appeared to possess a ready and friendly expression for every one. His arm must have been considerably fatigued, for it often hung by his side for an instant, and he occasionally refreshed himself with a glass of ice water. When the doors were closed the Mayor shook hands with each of the police, to whom he was introduced by Superintendant Talmadge, reclined a few moments in a chair, invited a number of friends to his house and accompanied by two or three persons soon after quietly departed. Many persons wondered that there were no refreshments provided, as on former occasions, but on second reflection attributed this extraordinary fact to the bad times, and reluctantly felt satisfied.

NEW YEAR'S DAY IN BROOKLYN.

This day of all days for receiving calls and congratulating each other on the advent of another year, was duly celebrated in the "City of Churches." The evening previous the streets were filled with persons who were making purchases for the little folks and preparing for the festivities of the occasion. The Methodist churches were opened for religious services at an early hour in the evening, and the exercises continued till after the advent of the new year, when they closed. About nine o'clock the visiters began to make their appearance, some in stylish carriages, others in the less pretentious hack, and others on foot. The game once commenced, was kept up till midnight. Almost every house in the city was thrown open for the reception of visiters, of which there were many.

His honor Mayor Powell received call s from the citizens, between the hours of 10 and 12½ o'clock, at the Mayor's office in the City Hall. A large number of the citizens availed themselves of the opportunity afforded to be introduced to the chief magistrate of the city of Brooklyn. In the afternoon he received the calls of his personal friends, at his residence in Adams street, near Johnston.

Sheriff George Remsen took possession of the county jail at midnight of the 31st, and was formally placed in charge, by the retiring sheriff, Burdett Stryker, of the books, papers and prisoners in the jail. He yesterday received his friends at his residence in the jail. Quite a large number of persons availed themselves of the occasion to pay their respects to the new sheriff.

The public houses were mostly closed during the day and evening. All passed off quietly save the usual disorder attendant on New Year's day.

INCIDENTS, ACCIDENTS, ETC.

About 8½ o'clock on Thursday evening, two men, named Patrick Carroll and Daniel McCarty, were arrested by officer Kenney, of the Third precinct police, for having knocked down and robbed a man named Peter Mullen, who was passing along Hamilton avenue with a basket of provisions. He was beaten severely by the ruffians, and others who were in the party made their escape with the provisions in the basket. The officer coming up at the time, arrested the two parties, and they were held for an examination by Justice Blatchly.

A female child, intended no doubt as a present to some person, was found about 5½ o'clock on Thurday afternoon under the stoop of 65 Prospect street by the inmates of the house. It was placed in charge of the Superintendent of the Poor.

Coroner Cornelius W. Corine yesterday entered upon the duties of his office, and has established himself in the basement of the City Hall, near the western entrance.

John J. White, Superintendent of the Poor, enters upon the duties of his office to-day.

About 2 o'clock in the afternoon a riot occurred in Fulton street, near the corner of High street, between some of the members of engine companies Nos. 3 and 4. The difficulty originated out of a feud of long standing, accelerated by an overplus of stimulus. A fight first took place between two persons belonging to each company, and immediately led to a general quarrel. No one was seriously injured, but several beaten. The fight continued for some minutes before the arrival of the police, when Sergeants Mathews and Smith, of the First precinct, accompanied by a posse of officers, arrived on the ground. The row then ceased. Six persons were arrested by the police and taken to the First precinct station house, and locked up for an examination. Their names are Wm. Wallace, Wm. McCloud, John W. Hutchinson, Frederic Gerard, Francis Gerard and Patrick McKinney.

A difficulty occurred at No. 17 James street between John Grace and Arnold Crosby, in which the former was stabbed in the head with a knife and severely injured. Crosby was arrested by the Second precinct police.

A man named James Gallagher, while standing at the corner of Hicks and Atlantic streets on Friday afternoon, was accosted by a drunken man named Thomas Parse, without any provocation, drew a knife and inflicted a severe gash in Gallagher's neck, near the jugular vein. The wound is thought to be a dangerous one, and it appears the assault was made without any cause whatever. Officer Oats, of the Third precinct, arrested Parse and locked him up to await examination.

Patrick Duff was arrested by the Fourth precinct police for driving his wife and children out of the house while he was drunk, and threatening to shoot them. A gun loaded and cocked was taken from his possession by officer Switzer, and he was locked up to await a hearing.

A fire broke out in a small frame house on Twentieth street, between Fourth and Fifth avenues, occupied by Terrence Donly. It was damaged to the extent of $300. The adjoining house of Thomas Boland was damaged to the amount of about $150. The insurance policies had just run out.

The police of the several precincts made arrests during the day and evening as follows:—

1st precinct	19	6th precinct	40
2d do.	13	7th do.	1
3d do.	26	8th do.	4
4th do.	16	9th do.	3
5th do.	13		—
Total			135

NEW YEAR'S DAY IN JERSEY CITY AND HOBOKEN.

The day was very generally but quietly observed. The streets were alive with callers, but the absence of intoxication and boisterous conduct was the subject of comment. Only four persons were arrested in Jersey City for drunkenness.

NEW YEAR'S DAY IN WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2, 1858.

"The day," yesterday, was splendid, and one of general enjoyment here. The President's reception was crowded from 11 to 12 by the *Corps Diplomatique* and distinguished citizens; then for two hours by plain democracy. The Cabinet received company, but without refreshments. Vice President Breckinridge and Speaker Orr received the congratulations of their numerous friends. In the rich saloons of Senators Davis, Bigler, Slidell and Pugh were spread ample refreshments for the crowds of friends who called. Col. Benton was not forgotten in the general rejoicing; hundreds paid their respects to the venerable statesman. The day passed off without accident.

NEW YEAR'S DAY IN BOSTON.

BOSTON, Jan. 1, 1858.

There is very little observance of New Year's Day here; business goes on as usual. The new City Library was inaugurated, with interesting ceremonies.

Our Washington Correspondence.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28, 1857.

A Caucus in George N. Sanders' Room on the Kansas Question—Senator Fitch, of Indiana, in Reply to Mr. Douglas.

That indomitable political manager, George N. Sanders, Navy Agent at New York, is in Washington, fresh from Kansas. Sanders, ex-Governor Walker, and several other well known land and political speculators from or connected with Kansas, had a meeting last night in "George's room" at the National Hotel, to consider their prospects, their plan of defence in the present position of affairs, and how they may now proceed to throw dust in the eyes of the President and "leading men," and to humbug the people as to their political schemes and speculations for the future. The old dodge of free and easy hotel quarters is again resorted to to draw in supporters and to soften down hostility. They tried it last night with certain gentlemen who have been in and who know all about Kansas; but the brandy did not act in the way anticipated. Their schemes, and the whole course of such political managers and agitators, who have disturbed the peace of the whole country and prevented the people of Kansas from expressing their will in their own affairs, were denounced. They missed their game, and it is presumed they are, with their accustomed energy, after other prey.

In the course of the developement of the Kansas imbroglio in Congress, first agitated by Judge Douglas when he "made haste" to attack the administration, there is, en *passant*, one feature worthy of notice—one which has evidently given the Senator from Illinois much annoyance and disappointment. I allude to the position taken by the State of Indiana through her delegation in Congress, and especially through her Senators, Dr. Fitch and Mr. Bright, in support of the President. Indiana, a powerful Western State, lying by the side of, sympathetic with, and generally taking the same political course as Illinois, thus to pronounce her conservative views, was a serious blow to Judge Douglas and his aspirations for the Presidency. The platform he thought to build on the popular sympathy of the great and growing West by "shrieking" for Kansas, has been undermined at the start. I never saw the adroit Senator from Illinois, who is beyond all question the ablest "dodger" in debate in the Senate, so closely cornered and irritated as in the delivery of the speech of Dr. Fitch, the new Senator from Indiana. The running debate between the two Senators was strikingly characteristic. Dr. Fitch said the difference between the Senator from Illinois and himself was, that Mr. Douglas denied the President's conclusion in the argument in that part o the message relating to Kansas, while he pretended to coincide with him in his reasoning, while he (Dr. Fitch) concurred both in the reasoning and in the conclusion. Mr. Douglas asked what conclusion he referred to. Dr. Fitch replied, "The conclusion that the constitution of Kansas, if it come before us, as it is supposed it will, from the Convention directly, without previous submission, will nevertheless be a constitution which we can legally accept, and perhaps, under the circumstances, ought to accept." Here is the gist of the whole matter in a few words. Judge Douglas, in the course of the debate, quoted frequently the Cincinnati platform. On this his opponent remarked that the Cincinnati platform was lugged again and again into the controversy by the Senator. He (Dr. Fitch) had some little, but not much faith in political platforms; he knew how they were framed. A committee is appointed to draft resolutions; they bring them forward, and because they do not happen to expressly conflict with the sentiments of the wise gentlemen then and there assembled, for another purpose than to build a political platform to guide all posterity, namely, to nominate candidates for President and Vice President, forsooth they are to control the government and its policy from thenceforth forever. He had no objection to the Cincinnati platform; on the contrary, he believed it to be an admirable one; and it recognized, in almost the language of the Kansas bill, the right of the people to regulate their domestic institutions in their own way. The people of Kansas have exercised that right in their own way—a way deemed legal—a way the President deems legal. Whatever opposition there might be to that way, and whatever his wishes might be as to any other way, he had nothing to do but look at the laws and their execution in due form. He only knew the will of the people through their laws, and knew of no right, except it be an arbitrary one, authorizing him or Congress to set aside or go behind their laws.

This powerful Indiana movement in the Senate in support of the administration and against the position assumed by Judge Douglas, seems to have been as unanticipated as it was opportune.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29, 1857.

The Senators from Minnesota and Oregon—The Dispute on the Indiana Senatorship—Warm Work Ahead on that Question.

The opening of Congress on Monday next will be an interesting occasion. Of course the first regular business in the Senate, after disposing of Utah and Nicaragua affairs, will be to admit Minnesota with her two democratic Senators—Messrs. Rice and Shields—who will undoubtedly reach the federal capital by that time. Oregon will come next, with two more democratic Senators, but neither of which will take their seats at present. It is generally conceded that one of these Senators will be Gen. Lane, the present delegate from Oregon. The latest advices do not intimate who the other will be.

The next item on the programme in the Senate will be to dispose of Messrs. Bright and Fitch, of Indiana, neither of whom, it is contended, has any right to a seat in that body. Their case is a much stronger one than that of Mr. Harlan, of Iowa, in the last Congress, and yet every democratic Senator, except Pugh, Toombs and Slidell, voted to turn him out. The question among the republicans now seems to be whether the two speeches recently made—by Fitch in the Senate and Bright at Philadelphia—both against the policy of Douglas, are to purchase them their places yet longer, against the Iowa precedent, to which all the democratic senators, except the three named, are committed. If so, the predictions that the Douglas *coup d'état* has disjointed the democratic party is not only true, but signs of present weakness are manifesting themselves, which are altogether too mortifying. Will the administration side of the Senate, by their public [illegible] say to Mr. Douglas, "We can't do without [illegible] of these men from Indiana? They are [illegible] our existence."

No doubt the opposition [illegible] pose to turn out Messrs. Bright and Fitch, and [illegible] the democrats should put themselves on [illegible] consistently. It is thought that Governor Willard [illegible] diana—who is understood to be the "right bower" [illegible] Mr. Bright—will give them certificates of appointment before they get out of the Senate chamber, if Bright says so; and of course he will say so. Then will come the tug of war, and a battle worth fighting.

The question will arise as to the Governor's right to make such an appointment. He will undoubtedly do it, on the ground that there is a vacancy within the meaning of the constitution of the United States, which the Governor can fill by appointment. But the question is: Is it such a vacancy? It was first decided in the Lanman case, from Connecticut, and has always since been recognized as a settled rule, that the Governor of a State cannot make an original appointment which has not been once filled by an election. It is claimed that the Indiana Senators were never elected, and should be turned out, upon the ground that the pretended election was no election, and hence void. The Senate having decided that the proceedings by which they pretended to be elected were void, it follows, necessarily, that the case stands in the same position it would if no election had been attempted. In such a case it is admitted on all hands that the Governor could not make an appointment. In fact, Indiana has remained for two years with but one Senator, for the reason that the Legislature failed to elect, and the Governor could not make any appointment; and on the same principle, if this pretended election was void, the Governor could make no appointment in either case.

Under these circumstances it is presumed here that if Governor Willard should have the hardihood to appoint these men, there will be found Senators who will object to their being sworn in, and thus prevent their admission into the Senate the second time.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30, 1857.

Grand Ball at Postmaster General Brown's—The Whole Cabinet and Corps Diplomatique Present—Large Attendance of Senators and Congressmen—Magnificent Costumes of the Ladies—The Belles of the Evening, &c.

The gayeties of Washington were regularly inaugurated last evening at the princely residence of Postmaster General Brown, and the occasion will be long remembered in fashionable circles here. As noted as Washington is and has been for splendid entertainments, I speak only the opinions of the thousand or twelve hundred persons present when I say that this party of Mrs. Brown excelled anything ever before witnessed in this country in point of brilliancy and *recherché* elegance. The parlors and drawing rooms are spacious, and they were filled with the *distingué* of every land—each vieing with the other in rich dresses and costly ornaments. Among the numerous persons who graced this first grand ball of the season were Vice-President Breckinridge, Secretary Cobb and lady, Secretary Thompson, lady and neice; Miss Wiley; Attorney General Black, lady and daughter, and Secretary Floyd; the President's private secretary, Mr. Henry. The accomplished Miss Lane, who presides with such dignity, ease and grace at the White House, was not present, but she was represented by a beautiful bouquet, accompanied by a nice little note expressing her regrets. The whole diplomatic corps were present, not in court, but in citizens' dress, while the ladies of the several legations sported their costly jewels. Count Sartiges bore upon his breast the several orders of knighthood, while his charming Countess (a Boston belle) shone resplendent in her diamonds. Madame Sartiges' dress was of white tissue, elegantly embroidered in raised flowers of green and blue, with a simple head dress of white flowers.

Lord Napier, the favorite of the diplomatic family was on hand, making himself agreeable to everybody, accompanied by Lady Napier, the most charming of English ladies, dressed in white tissue, with small bows of white satin ribbon over the skirt, and her head and neck dazzling with diamonds and pearls. Sir Wm. Ouseley, too, was there, and a lion among the diplomats, with Lady Ouseley, dressed like a queen, and Miss Ouseley, robed in all the simplicity imaginable, but in the most exquisite taste.

Baron Stoeckl, the representative of all the Russias—and withal one of the most elegant gentlemen and popular ministers which we have ever had the pleasure of receiving from any court of Europe—appeared in all his manly beauty, and was the great looked at by the ladies. If Madame Stoeckl was present, your correspondent had not the pleasure of meeting her in the crowd. The bachelor members of the *corps diplomatique* were also out in full strength—Gen. Robles, Senor Molino and Senor Escalante leading the van. The amiable and popular Gen. Herran was playing the agreeable to the belles of the evening in the absence of his excellent lady. Madame Albuquerque and daughter, Baron Schliden and Senor Hulsemann were also present, together with many others whose names I could not get, accompanied in every instance by their *attaches*.

The judicial ermine was represented by Judge Campbell, lady and daughter, Judge Grier and Judge McLane.

Among the Senators I observed Mr. Slidell and lady, Mr. Bright, lady and daughter, Mr. Clay and lady, Mr. Bigler and lady, Gov. Fitzpatrick and lady, Mr. Thompson and lady, Gen. Houston, Mr. Seward, Mr. Mallory, Mr. Jones of Iowa, Mr. Fitch and Mr. Johnson.

The lower House was also well represented in the persons of James B. Clay and lady, Mr. Stuart, lady and daughter, Mr. Adrain, lady and daughter, Mr. Cobb and lady of Alabama, Mr. Haskins and lady, Mr. Sickles and lady, Mr. Phelps and lady, Mr. Jackson and lady, Mr. Costell and lady, Col. Brady, lady and daughter, Mr. Smith, lady and daughter, Mrs. Horace F. Clark, Mr. Singleton, Mr. Scott, Mr. M'Kibben, Mr. Clemens, Mr. Edmunson, Mr. Marshall of Kentucky, Mr. Marshall of Illinois, Mr. Burlingame, Mr. Eustis, Col. Savage, Mr. Ruffin, Mr. H. Atkins, and Gen. Ward.

Among the private citizens I observed Collector Schell, Edwin Croswell, Mr. Clayton and lady, Mr. King, (First Assistant Postmaster General,) lady and daughter; Mr. and Mrs. George Parker and their two beautiful daughters, Major Arnold Harris and daughter, the Misses Pleasanton, Commodore McCauley and daughter, Mr. Burgh and lady, and Major Russell.

Cocked hats and brass buttons shone resplendent during the evening.

Secretary Cobb was, of course, as full of merriment as his coffers will soon be of Treasury notes. He was accompanied, as I said, by his accomplished lady, robed in rich maroon colored velvet. Secretary Thompson was as witty as usual, while his queenly wife and charming niece, Miss Wiley, of Mississippi, were centres of attraction. Mrs. Thompson wore a blue and