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PROPOSED DEMOCRATIC REFORM.

Movement to Purify the Representation of the Democratic Party—Meeting at the Westchester House—Preparations for a Meeting at Tammany Hall, &c., &c.

About thirty prominent democrats convened at the Westchester House on Tuesday evening last, in response to the following invitation:—

NEW YORK, March 25, 1859.

DEAR SIR—Will you aid the cause of democracy by meeting with a few political friends, on Tuesday evening, March 29, at 7½ o'clock, at the Westchester House, corner of the Bowery and Broome street. Very respectfully, yours,

JAMES CONNER.

Among those present were Postmaster Fowler, Hon. John Cochrane, Messrs. U. D. French, D. W. Clark, T. N Carr, Henry Smith, James Murphy, Andrew H. Mickle Peter Crawford, Joseph Cornell and C. C. Childs.

The meeting was organized by the selection of Mr. Cochrane as chairman, and C. C. Childs and R. G. Horton as secretaries.

Mr. COCHRANE said he was not sufficiently aware of the objects of the meeting to state them, but presumed there were gentlemen present who were able to explain. Any one who had charge of the calling of the meeting would please make a statement.

Mr. JAMES CONNER then said that of late he had been very much afflicted, and had little else to do but read the papers and look over what he conceived to be the corruptions of their own party. He felt constrained to confess that he saw a tendency to ruin, and had therefore been induced to invite them this evening. He was not in the habit of speaking, but had prepared an article expressive of his views in regard to calling them together, which he would hand to the Secretary to read. The following is the document:—

It is perhaps necessary, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, that I should, in as few words as possible, explain the objects for which you have been called together this evening, and more especially so, as the call which you have just heard read was written and issued under my advisement. We meet as party men, it is true, but at the same time as good citizens, for consultation as to the best means to be used to free ourselves and the democratic party of this city from a longer association, politically, with men whose official conduct and acts, while they shame the party to which they lay claim as members, are hourly receiving the just denunciations of a whole community. From the high standing which at one time we occupied as a party we have been gradually losing our influence and hold upon the public estimation and favor, by selections to office of men who, in too many instances, were wholly destitute of character, ability or honesty. It is here unnecessary to individualize the many instances of outrage and frauds which these men have committed upon a too credulous community, and which they are daily committing, in defiance of law or popular sentiment. In fact, there is scarcely a department of the city government in which these men are not to be found engaged in hourly consultation upon fresh schemes for the further perpetration of frauds and crimes upon the community. It does not render less necessary prompt action on our part, to be assured that a large portion of these delinquents are members of the republican party; it is enough to know that the democratic party have added to the number of those public plunders, by putting into places of trust men who are wholly destitute of character and moral principle, as their acts have shown. Leaving the republican party to act for itself, it is our duty to take such public action in the premises as will free us, as a party, from all further censure or reproach. And it is especially our duty that we should compel the adoption of measures calculated to gain the public confidence and support; and thus re-establish in power the great and hitherto successful democratic party of this city. The preamble and resolutions which will be presented for your consideration will propose a course of action which it is hoped you will adopt. As a citizen, I have large personal interest in the success of this movement. I have in this city, in my immediate employ, over one hundred persons. My taxes, as well as your own, are yearly on the increase; and at this moment I am under assessments for city improvements to a large amount. I have thus, gentlemen, stated to you briefly the object of our coming together this evening, and it is left to you to take such action in the premises as you may think the occasion calls for.

Mr. CARR said, previous to reading the resolutions, that it was a fact well known to the democratic party as well as to the country at large, that for a number of years—say for the past ten years—democracy had been gradually, but surely losing its hold upon the people, not from any fault of its own, but from the fault of those in whom its confidence had been reposed. They could see before them the fruits of the ill advised policy on their part, in the dissensions and distractions of the democratic party. They could also see the necessity that now exists—if they wished to bring the party back to its former vigor and strength—for some step which should be taken by them to express their opinion in opposition to those men who had thus by their daily acts disgraced the positions which they occupied by fraudulent acts upon the treasury of our city. For himself, though perhaps in more humble circumstances than any other gentleman in the room, he could feel the full force that was now pressing upon them for action. They would have an effect upon the thinking portion of the community. By the stand which they should take this evening he trusted to restore a healthy order of things in Tammany Hall. Such an effort would secure the confidence of those who had hitherto been compelled to leave the party and abandon them in their moments of need from the evil cause named. He believed it would be instrumental in harmonizing the great democratic party, insuring their success in the coming elections. If they were successful in the approaching fall elections, it must have its effect, and a favorable effect, upon the democracy throughout the State. He firmly believed that if all who were there should put their feet down that evening to help forward the object set forth in the resolutions which they might agree upon, the State of New York was certain for the democratic candidate in 1860. He thought the present Common Council was too much composed of men whose own private interests are regarded in many instances. He would not charge the whole, but too many interests were made paramount to the public interests, and it was only necessary to look at the most important departments of the city government to show a degree of corruption existing there which had not before existed since the formation of the constitution of this country, and was heretofore unknown in the history of any other country. He repeated his former charges against the Corporation Counsel, Mr. Bosteed. He denied that the authors of these abuses had any hold upon the sentiments of the democracy of the city. It had been thought proper by his friend, Mr. Conner, to call this meeting, after conversation with others like himself, who were free from the necessities of party from their wealth and position. Their design was, if possible, to remedy these existing abuses by securing the appointment of men to office who would secure the respect and confidence of the people. He then read the resolutions, as follows:—

Whereas, the unconceaded perpetrations of frauds and acts of dishonesty by parties entrusted with the administration of our city government have become of such frequent occurrence as to create just alarm to the citizen and taxpayer thereof, placing in jeopardy and doubt the safety of property honestly acquired, and destructive of the best interests of the citizen; and whereas all efforts to correct these abuses have thus far proved unavailing, from, in too many instances, the corruption of justice itself and in open defiance of all law; and whereas, the perpetrators of these outrages have become so emboldened by their repeated successes as to claim the right to lead and direct the management of the two great parties of the day, to their detriment and shame; be it, therefore,

Resolved, That, as members of the democratic party, we openly and unreservedly pronounce against these outrages and their perpetrators, and declare all further association with them, official or otherwise, as men unworthy of confidence or respect; and that we will use our best endeavors, as citizens and democrats, to prevent a recurrence of these abuses, by selecting for office such men, and such men only, as command the public respect and confidence

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed by the Chair to make arrangements for an early call of a public meeting to be held at Tammany Hall, to take into consideration the subject contained in this preamble and resolutions; and that a further committee of five be selected to prepare an address to the democracy of the city, to be presented at said meeting.

The resolutions were adopted unanimously.

Mr. D. W. CLARK said, while they were about it he thought they might as well proceed to destroy the rottenness as much as they could, and prevent further depredations upon the city treasury and citizens and tax-payers of this city. Certainly the speech of Mr. Carr related to a particular person and a particular department of the city government. This person he was assured was now in Albany, assisted by a particular friend of his (Mr. Clark's,) trying to get the black republican rascals to prolong his term of office. He hoped the meeting would give some expression of its feeling in this matter, and condemn certain parties. Let them show the people that they were in earnest.

The CHAIRMAN announced the following committees, in accordance with the resolutions:—

On preparing for the meeting at Tammany Hall—Peter Crawford, Joseph Cornell, C. C. Childs, Henry Smith, Daniel W. Clark.

On an address and resolutions—Thomas N. Carr, Fred. R. Lee, Andrew H. Mickle, James Conner, Hiram Waldridge.

Upon the suggestion of ULYSSES D. FRENCH, each member of the meeting was constituted a committee of one for the purpose of getting names of prominent democrats in favor of the proposed meeting, as soon as the proper heading to the call was prepared.

Mr. COCHRANE being called for, said he really had nothing to say upon the subject, and, if he had the good sense which some attributed to him, it would be better perhaps to say nothing on the subject. He was happy to be there with them for the purpose of lending what assistance he could to the object they had in view. He must express his entire ignorance of the details of the evils complained of, for the reason that he had not of late paid that attention to the affairs of the city and State which was perhaps due them. He heard of these charges for the first time now. He felt confident that the course suggested was the proper one to reform the alleged abuses, and had no doubt that if a meeting were called in Tammany Hall, through the instrumentality proposed, it would do good. If gentlemen of influential character should give their names, the party could not fail to respond, and if any such acts as those alluded to were proven, the reprehension of the party and the community must, without fail, fall upon the authors of them. One of the most glaring abuses of the day he deemed to be the imposition of Albany legislation on the city of New York, and he confidently expressed his fears that that oppression would inevitably end in revolution. It was unparalleled in the history of usurpation of power over the people, either in this country or the most despotic country abroad, and if no other reparation could be found, he thought it was sufficient for revolution at the price of blood. (Applause.) While he was willing to be in the thickest of the fight, he felt that it would result in internecine slaughter. Where the evils at present complained of rested, those who were the offenders must bear the consequences themselves. He had not examined the subject sufficiently to fulminate a charge against any individual. He felt sure, however, that a meeting, called in the manner indicated, would be of benefit, if emanating not from the authority, but through the instrumentality of this meeting, and through the authority of the names of those citizens who might sign the call. Such a meeting would be a proper remedy to apply to the errors complained of.

Mr. CONNER expressed the hope that the committees would meet at an early day and facilitate the objects for which they had been appointed, and thereupon the meeting adjourned.

The Twelfth Regiment.

So much has been said through the newspapers against the consolidation of the Tenth and Twelfth regiments, that we deem it fair to give the other side a hearing.

We are assured, from a reliable source, that the statements in the following article from the *Journal*, of the inspection returns of the Twelfth regiment, in October, 1857, and October, 1858, are correct.

If so, the consolidation or disbanding of the Twelfth was a measure both just and necessary:—

We learn that the Tenth and Twelfth regiments were consolidated for the purpose of increasing the effectiveness of the troops of the First division, and more especially that portion of them comprising the Fourth brigade.

This brigade was composed of four regiments, namely: the Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth and Sixty-ninth.

The Tenth and Twelfth were small and ineffective regiments, the latter not comprising members sufficient to warrant a legal existence. By combining them, one substantial and reliable regiment would result, and one regimental organization would be dispensed with, thereby increasing just so much the quota of the commutation fund apportioned to each of the remaining effective regiments of the division.

These reasons, we think, fully justified the Commander-in-Chief in directing the consolidation urged by the commanding generals of the division and brigade; and if our militia, which yearly costs the State so much money, be really something else than a show affair, the order of consolidation should be enforced and obeyed. If, on the contrary, however, it be intended on the part of those who comprise the force that it shall subserve a purpose other than the military one required by the law, why not at once repeal this law, and enact another more congenial to their tastes?

In our populous cities and counties a well regulated militia is doubtless a safeguard, but an armed and irresponsible force is no less a nuisance than it is dangerous to the liberties of the people. In fact, if the militia cannot be maintained upon strict military principles, it had better be abolished, and the various arsenals and armories erected during the past year had better be sold and the proceeds put back into the treasury of the State.

The Twelfth regiment certainly made a fine display in this city on Thursday last; but upon an examination of the inspection returns for the years 1857 and 1858, it will be found difficult to believe that this regiment had not temporary accessions to its ranks.

It should be remembered that great effort is made to swell a regiment to its utmost limit on the occasion of its annual inspection, because its military standing among the regiments of the State is there graduated; and especially is this the case where the regiment is a small one, for the reason that companies inspecting short of thirty two non-commissioned officers and privates are liable to be disbanded. What, then, was the condition of the Twelfth regiment at the annual inspections of the last two years?

At the inspection in the month of October, 1857, there were present for this regiment—

19 officers,
8 non-commissioned staff officers,
34 non-commissioned officers of companies,
98 privates,

And in all six companies, averaging only twenty-two non-commissioned officers and privates per company, being ten per company below the legal standard.

At the inspection in the month of October, 1858, there were present

20 officers,
3 non-commissioned staff officers,
35 non-commissioned officers of companies,
87 privates,

And in all seven companies, averaging a little more than seventeen non-commissioned officers and privates per company, being nearly fifteen per company below the legal standard; and yet, notwithstanding these facts, this regiment has recently appeared in this city upon an "excursion," numbering, it is said, over two hundred and fifty men.

The City Inspectorship—Another Communication from the Mayor Respecting the Appointment of Mr. Purdy.

The following is the communication sent by the Mayor to the Board of Aldermen, but not reached, on Thursday evening:—

MAYOR'S OFFICE, NEW YORK, March 31, 1859.

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF ALDERMEN:—

GENTLEMEN—I have received from the honorable the Board of Aldermen a communication, made by me, nominating Elijah F. Purdy as City Inspector in place of George W. Morton, whose term of office expired on the 31st day of December, 1858, by the 21st section of the charter of 1857. This communication has been returned to me by your honorable body with the following endorsement:—

BOARD OF ALDERMEN, March 24, 1859.

So much of the within communication as relates to the withdrawal of Dr. S. Conant Foster, referred to the special Committee on City Inspector, and so much as relates to the appointment of Elijah F. Purdy to said office of City Inspector, directed to be returned to his Honor the Mayor.

D. T. VALENTINE, Clerk.
Per F. J. Toomey, Deputy.

I deem it my duty again to call the attention of the Board to the fact that I have nominated Elijah F. Purdy as City Inspector in place of George W. Morton, whose term of office expired on the 31st day of December, 1858, and that such nomination has neither been rejected nor confirmed.

The action of the Board of Aldermen in returning to me, with the endorsement I have referred to, my communication in which I have nominated Mr. Purdy is, in my judgment, without authority. The nineteenth section of the charter imposes on the Mayor of the city the duty of nominating certain public officers of the city, and to the Board of Aldermen belongs the duty of confirming or rejecting such nomination. In pursuance of this provision, on the 5th day of January last I nominated to the Board of Aldermen Dr. S. Conant Foster to the office of City Inspector, in the place of George W. Morton. This nomination was made only after I had the consent of Dr. Foster to present his name to the Board. My authority to use his name has been revoked by Dr. Foster withdrawing his name and refusing to allow it to be presented to the Board of Aldermen. This withdrawal of Dr. Foster's consent was communicated to your honorable body at the time I nominated Mr. Purdy to fill the place of Mr. Morton. The refusal of Dr. Foster to permit his name to be used formed the foundation of my action in nominating Mr. Purdy. Since this withdrawal of Dr. Foster's action has been had by the Board. It appeared, therefore, to me that the duty which I owed to my constituents required me to take proper measures to have an important office filled without delay. Under the charter, the Board of Aldermen has the right to confirm or reject the nomination of the Mayor. Months had expired without action on the first nomination made by me of Dr. Foster, and in the present instance it is returned to me without any action of the Board. After a nomination has passed from my hands into the Board of Aldermen, the charter assumes that it will be confirmed or rejected, so that the public interests shall not be permitted to suffer by delay. The 19th section of the charter expressly states that when the Board of Aldermen shall reject a nomination made by the Mayor, that officer shall immediately nominate another person. This provision would seem to require prompt action on the part of the nominating power which should naturally devolve a readiness on the part of the confirming body to act on such nomination.

The Board cannot but admit that so far as the charter has committed to me any duty in relation to the office of City Inspector since it became vacant, on the 31st day of December last, I have endeavored to fulfil that duty. It does not become me to be the censor of the acts of a co-ordinate branch of the municipal government, but the Board may rest assured that all the power which has been vested in the office of Mayor shall be exercised by me promptly and with a single view to the promotion of the public interests. Our constituents look to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for the preservation of the public health. The immense interests of a great commercial city are not to be jeopardized by permitting the office of City Inspector to remain a subject of contest and doubt. The summer is approaching, and every proper precaution should be taken to prevent any pestilence from breaking out amongst us.

In the nomination of Mr. Purdy I have presented the name of a citizen familiar to you all as a man of integrity and ability to discharge the duties of the office to which I have nominated him. On you devolves the responsibility of deciding whether he shall be confirmed or rejected.

I accordingly return to your honorable body the communication in which the nomination was made.

DALE'L F. TIEMANN, Mayor.

Our Baden Correspondence.

BADEN, March 2, 1859.

The Italian War Excitement—England Apprehensive of Trouble with the United States, &c.

The war is now unavoidable. You may set that down as a "fixed fact." And although the fortresses of Rastadt, Mentz, Ulm and Coblentz are to be at once armed for a siege, neither Prussia nor England will at first take part in the struggle. The mission of Lord Cowley to Vienna is merely advisory, and he has no power to bind England to anything in the shape of an alliance. Austria is at the verge of bankruptcy. Her new loan is not yet subscribed for, and she has another one already on the stocks. The best informed financial men in Frankfort assured me that it is impossible for Austria to pay the interest on her public debt, and that she will be obliged to make a *grand fiasco*.

Gortschakoff says "Russia is ready for peace or war;" but should war come, she will act toward Austria as Austria has acted toward her in the Crimean war. They talk of the danger on the Rhine and the Po; I believe the greatest danger to Austria threatens on the Vistula and the Pruth. We shall see.

I have it from a very high diplomatic person, that England is unwilling to desert France for Austria, because she is apprehensive of difficulty with the United States. *(Sic!)* The diplomatist referred to was an Englishman and a partisan of Lord Palmerston. How well Mr. Buchanan understands that British statesman!

United States Circuit Court.

Before Hon. Judge Betts.

APRIL 1.—The Grand Jury presented bills of indictment in the following cases:—

Robert Walker, boatswain of the ship Antarctic, for inflicting cruel and unusual punishment on a seaman called "Charley."

Joseph O. Broadford, third mate of the same vessel, for the same crime.

George Drew and Thomas Campbell, of the ship Liverpool, for larceny.

John McNeney, of the ship Ettiwan, for inflicting cruel and unusual punishment on a seaman named Robert Glendening.

John H. Palsing, for forging a voucher in relation to prize money.

OUR OF THE VICTIMS.—The Richmond *Enquirer* has been informed that Mr. Fayette Robinson, who has fallen a victim to the wholesale poisoning recently perpetrated in New York, was a son of Mr. Anthony Robinson, Jr., of that city, the former cashier of the Bank of Virginia.

Inauguration of the Tehuantepec Railroad.

OUR TEHUANTEPEC CORRESPONDENCE.

TEHUANTEPEC, March 6, 1859.

Breaking Ground in the Construction of the Road—Presence of the Authorities, Curate and Officers of the Company—Speech of Mr. Sidell—Remarks of Father Lopez—Speech of Gov. Diaz—Official Documents, &c., &c.

We had quite an interesting ceremony yesterday at Hulitepec, a small village about nine miles south from this place, on the occasion of the beginning of the railroad work upon this isthmus.

Early on the morning of the 5th Mr. W. H. Sidell, chief engineer of the Louisiana Tehuantepec Company, accompanied by the Governor or Gefe Politico of the district Don Porfirio Diaz, the District Judge Don Nicolas Garrido, the Cura of Tehuantepec Father Mauricio Lopez, the ex-City Judge Don Juan Avendano, the United States Consul; C. R. Webster, Esq., and a party of *attachés* of the company and invited guests—"*quorum pars parva fui*"—all started on horseback for the appointed spot. We were escorted by a battalion of the Tehuantepec garrison, whom Gov. Diaz had ordered out in honor of the occasion, and who gave to our little expedition quite an imposing and military appearance.

About an hour and a half's pleasant ride across an open and level country brought us in sight of Hulitepec, a very picturesque Indian village on the Tehuantepec river, which here runs through a gorge or valley between two ranges of high granitic hills. Here we met M. Von Hippel, the gentleman who has charge of this division of the line, and his party of engineers, about seven in number.

After some preliminary explanations from Mr. Sidell, the whole party, including the military, the native laborers and the population of the village, proceeded to the banks of the river, where the stakes indicating the line of the railroad, as well as the course of the proposed bridge, had already been driven, and everything was in readiness for the commencement of the work.

The soldiers and native laborers having been ranged in double file on both sides of the road, we took up our station at the top of the bank, when Mr. Sidell, advancing a little in front of the Governor and the other invited guests, delivered a brief and appropriate address, of which I can here give but an imperfect sketch:—

MR. SIDELL'S SPEECH.

The work which we are about to commence, Mr. S. said, is one fraught with such important consequences, and one destined to exercise such a benificent influence over the future, not only of the two sister republics of the United States and Mexico, but also, in a measure, of the world at large, that its value and importance can hardly be overestimated. The undertaking which, in our humble way, we are now initiating, and which, with the blessing of Providence, we hope to carry out to a successful issue, is one of great difficulty and labor, requiring the outlay of a large capital and calling for the display of the highest powers of science. It is another step forward in the march of civilization upon this continent—another link added to the golden chain which is to bind together the scattered members of the great human brotherhood. Experience has shown us that when men are kept apart, whether by impassable mountains, or desert plains, or tempestuous oceans, they are liable to form mistaken ideas, and to entertain unfounded prejudices against each other; but when once brought together, whether for the purposes of commerce or of social intercourse, they soon learn to discard such narrow and mistaken notions, and to cultivate a friendly feeling towards the good men of other countries and of other races. This work has brought us here together from widely distant places—from the United States, from France, from England, from Germany—for the purpose of co-operating in the opening of a new, a short, safe and pleasant avenue to the various nations and races who dwell upon the Pacific borders and upon the shores of the Atlantic. Through and by this new route the inhabitants of the North, and of the South, of the East, and of the West, the European and the Asiatic, the American and the Mexican, the Chilean, the Peruvian, the Sandwich Islander, the Malay, the Chinaman and the Australian will come together and become better acquainted with each other. When this railroad shall be completed, the distance between the Atlantic and the Pacific will be crossed in six hours, and in some cases in four, without inconvenience and without danger, through a most beautiful, fertile and salubrious region. This is, then, a work in which all are interested—foreigners, as well as Mexicans and Americans. Before the completion of the work which we are now beginning under the noonday splendor of a vertical sun, there may, and must be, some dark hours. There may be obstacles to encounter from which even bold men might shrink; but let us hope for strength to surmount them, and trust that every gloomy doubt may, like our own shadows at this hour, be cast beneath our feet. And as such an undertaking cannot be carried successfully through without the protection and blessing of Heaven, I now call upon our respected guest, the Rev. Father Mauricio Lopez, to invoke the divine benediction upon this the beginning of the work upon the railroad of the Louisiana Tehuantepec Company.

The Rev. Father Mauricio Lopez, a very intelligent looking native Mexican priest, of about fifty, attired in the white robes of his order (the Dominican), then came forward. The Tehuantepec Railroad, he said, was an undertaking with which all his sympathies were enlisted, not only as a friend of progress and liberal ideas, but also as a Mexican and a native Tehuantepecan. All the influence which he could wield would be exercised in it favor, and he would lose no opportunity of impressing upon his flock the duty and the necessity of sustaining it to the best of their power and ability. For myself, the Rev. Father added, as a minister of Christ, my most fervent prayers, as well as those of the clergy under my charge, will always be offered up in its behalf during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, that it may please God to bless it, as I now do, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen!

As soon as the Rev. Father had concluded, Mr. Sidell, taking up a spade from one of the laborers, commenced breaking the ground, and invited the Governor, the Padre and the other bystanders to follow his example, which they all did in succession, amidst deafening cheers for the Tehuantepec Company; and the native laborers then fell at once to work and commenced their day's task.

GOVERNOR DIAZ'S SPEECH.

The soldiers were then drawn up to fire a salute, and Governor Diaz, a remarkably fine, intelligent and good looking young man, of about twenty-five, came forward and made a most eloquent and impressive address to the Mexicans who had witnessed the ceremony. "An appeal had been made to them," he said, "to assist in the inauguration of this work; jointly with the directors, they had put their hand to the spade and broke the ground for the projected railroad. They had now another duty to perform—it was to follow up their action of to-day by affording in the future constant and efficient aid to the officers of the company—by keeping the road free from molestation, and by defending it, if necessary, at the cost of their blood and at the peril of their lives. As a native of the Mexican republic, and one devoted to her true interests, which could only be promoted by the ascendency of liberal ideas, he looked upon this enterprise as a blessing to his country. The republic of the United States he considered as an elder sister of that of Mexico, having preceded her in the path of progress and of republicanism, and having with her a community of principles. The political institutions of Mexico had been formed upon the model of those of the United States, and nothing but good could result to them from a closer intercourse with its citizens. He, therefore, called upon them as Mexicans, as liberals, as friends of their country's progress and of their country's prosperity, to stand by an enterprise which was fraught with such beneficial consequences for the future of Mexico. He called upon them to do their duty, their whole duty, towards the friends who had come among them to assist in developing the resources of their country, to open new avenues to her commerce, and to multiply and improve the means of communication between the inhabitants of the various States of the republic, as well as between the citizens of Mexico and those of other countries.

Gov. Diaz continued speaking in a similar strain, with great animation and effect, for about twenty minutes, concluding his address by calling for three vivas for the Louisiana Tehuantepec Company, to which, as a response, three hearty cheers for Gov. Diaz and the other Mexican officials were given by all the Americans present.

The whole party then repaired to the engineer's tent, where an elegant lunch awaited them, and where full justice was done to the champagne, the punch, the eggnogg, and the other good things which had been provided for them under the direction of M. Von Hippel, the Chief Engineer of the station.

We returned to Tehuantepec in the evening, and at Mr. Sidell's invitation sat down to a most *recherché* dinner which had been provided by mine host of the San Francisco Hotel, Don Eugenio Grygean, (a most excellent and well kept establishment by the way, and which I cannot too strongly recommend to all the lovers of good cheer who travel upon the Isthmus.) Among Mr. Sidell's guests were Gov. Diaz; Judges Garrido and Avendano; Father Mauricio Lopez; C. R. Webster, United States Consul; M. Von Hippel, and about half a dozen American gentleman connected with the company. The dinner passed off most pleasantly; and sentiments and toasts, very neatly turned and appropriately expressed, were offered by the various guests. Finally, at about a quarter o twelve, the party broke up on the most excellent term with each other and with the world at large.

THE MEXICAN OFFICIALS AT TEHUANTEPEC.

The Mexican officials at this place are certainly very favorable specimens of their class, from the Governor down to the lowest employe with whom I have been in contact. They are generally polite and well informed, and manifest every disposition to assist the officers of th company.

It was a matter of particular regret to us that the efficient and gentlemanly Collector of the port, Don Jose Sotomayer, was prevented by indisposition from joining our party on this occasion. M. Sotomayer, who was formerly private secretary to President Comonfort, is a gentleman of character and education, speaking the French and English languages with remarkable fluency and elegance, and is here held in deservedly high esteem. I may say as much of Father Lopez, the cura of this place, a clergyman of enlarged and liberal ideas, and possessing an unbounded influence over his parishioners. Judges Garrido and Avendano, as well as Governor Diaz, are all fine specimens of the Mexican gentleman—a character much more frequently to be met with than some travellers would have us to believe.

Before closing this letter I herewith subjoin a translation of the official document certifying to the opening of the railroad work:—

[TRANSLATION.]

Know ye, all men, by this instrument, that on the 5th day of March, A. D. 1859, work was regularly begun on the grading of the railroad to be constructed on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, in the republic of Mexico, (under the privilege granted with that object, dated September 7, 1857,) by the Louisiana Tehuantepec Company, its officers and agents, and particularly its Chief Engineer, William H. Sidell, whom the day aforesaid appeared on the ground selected as the line of location for said railroad, and in our presence broke ground for the roadbed thereof, and thereby commenced the effective labor of construction of said railroad, on that day.

In witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names at Hulitepec, this fifth day of March, in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine.

PORFIRIO DIAZ,
Governor of the District of Tehuantepec.
NICOLAS L. GARRIDO,
Judge of First Instance of the same.
M. VON HIPPEL,
Chief of Pacific Plains Division of RR. of L. T. Co.
FR. MAURICIO LOPEZ,
Parochial Curate.
PRIMO FELICIANO,
Alcalde of Hulitepec.
C. R. WEBSTER,
United States Consul.
ALBERT FAURE, JULIAN BOUNY,
JUAN AVENDANO, W. G. KENDALL,
CHARLES L. ISAACS,

and about twenty others.

I certify that on the day and year first above written, I approved of so much of the line of location of the Louisiana Tehuantepec Company as was laid out for construction near Hulitepec, and began the labor of building said railroad by breaking ground therefor in the presence and with the assistance of the witnesses to the act, who have signed their names above.

W. H. SIDELL,
Chief Engineer, La. Tehuantepec Co.

HULITEPEC, March 5, 1859.

[Translation of the certificate of the Judge.]

The citizen who subscribes, together with the assisting witnesses, certifies in due form that he was present at the act of the opening or beginning of the railroad as expressed in the above act, certifying at the same time that the above signatures are authentic and have been written in my presence, acting as Judge of First Instance of the District of Tehuantepec. NICHOLAS L. GARRIDO, D. A.

Witnesses, { FRANCISCO LOPEZ, FELIPE ARRAGON,

HULITEPEC, March 5, 1859.

Our Haytien Correspondence.

PORT AU PRINCE, March 14, 1859.

Haytien Theatricals—The Herald in Demand—The Coco-Macaque once More—Citizens Sent to Europe for Education—Colored Americans Freely Invited, &c., &c.

Your correspondent of last year, at Port au Prince, gave an amusing account of our theatre, and the French play there represented. When the HERALD of that day was received we all laughed and all pretended to be highly amused, but many were very angry, and your correspondent found it necessary to be as outraged as any one at the unwarranted liberty taken in criticising anything connected with Hayti. It is singular that, as a people, we should have so much *mauvaise honte*, and so little dignity, or, rather, self control, that when the laugh is against us we must necessarily fall into a passion. The HERALD has before this been tabooed, but occasionally our files come to hand; and although more thoroughly hated than any other paper, it is by far the most eagerly sought after. The theatre is now again established, but with somewhat less pretensions, and to prevent the recurrence of the scenes of last year a strong police force is announced in attendance. Under the old rule the police were among the curses of the city. Receiving scarcely any pay, they, of course, were useless when they might have been of service, and they only employed the immunities possessed in virtue of their position to oppress those who were helpless; and as their pay was not sufficient to live upon, far less to clothe themselves, they supported life by stealing all stray swine and sometimes cattle; the animal is immediately slaughtered, cut up and divided. The exiled Vil Lubin was director of this select body, but thanks to the revolution the rule of his *coco macaque* is past.

In my last I informed you that the republican government had determined to send each year a certain number of young men to France to receive the best possible classical education at the public expense. The liberal measure is extended to sending an equal number of persons, chosen from each department, to be thoroughly and carefully trained to the arts and useful trades. Should this letter regulation be a permanent one, it will in a few years exert a great influence over Haytien industry. Already on every side we hear of the returning glory of the Queen of the Antilles; reform in every branch of affairs is the order of the day. A treaty is being negotiated with the Spanish side of the island, which, if it prove successful, will create a wonderful change in the north, and Cape Haytien may again become the leading city of St. Domingo. Haytiens from all parts of the world are invited to return, and each vessel that arrives brings passengers. A few days since upwards of thirty arrived from Jamaica, also a number from the States; and, curiously enough, we continue to receive the political offenders from the Spanish side. The blacks of the United States are promised security. The island will support ten millions of inhabitants, while the present population is but little over a million. The soil is as rich as any in the world, and the climate in most places perfectly healthy. Mechanics are promised employment; and to encourage immigration settlers are for a certain period freed from military duty. Under Soulouque the slavery of the soldiers could be only relieved by flying to the mountains, or by age—grown gray in the service—and sometimes only by death. With such a state of things but few emigrants ventured to Hayti.

The markets remain the same as when I last wrote. Pork and flour low, with but little demand. I quote for the first $370, for the latter $185, with an increasing stock. Codfish remains pretty firm at $100.

Police Intelligence.

Few cases of interest or importance transpired in the police courts yesterday. After an unusually busy week a calm settles down upon the face of the metropolis, and the spread of crime is stopped for the time being.

Captain Abraham C. Johnson, of the Staten Island ferry boat Hunchback, was brought before Justice Osborn, at the Lower Police Court, on charge of manslaughter, in having, it is alleged, wilfully sunk the revenue boat on Thursday evening, thereby drowning one of the boatmen, named Timothy Donohue. The accused was held for examination. Search is now being made for the body of deceased, and if it is recovered the case will be transferred to the Coroner's charge. If not found, Justice Osborn intends to proceed with the examination and take the testimony of those persons who saw the collision in question.

Francis Dawson, a resident of West Tenth street, while taking a peep at the elephant, in Thomas street, on Thursday night, was robbed of a pocketbook containing $76. *A nymph du pave*, named Hannah Williams was found with the pocketbook, minus the money, in her possession, and was committed for trial on the charge of grand larceny.

George Anderson was taken in and done for in a similar manner. While in a house of assignation in Elm street he had his portemonnaie, containing $175, stolen. The proprietor of the house, together with George's fair inamorata, were arrested, but the stolen money could not be recovered.

Patrick Ronan, residing in Cliff street, for assaulting his wife with a hatchet, cutting her in the head, was locked up in the Tombs for trial.

Thomas O'Neil was arrested on a charge of burglariously entering the premises No. 85 East Broadway, and stealing therefrom $10 worth of property. Committed for examination. John Murphy found himself placed in a similar situation, he also having been arrested on charge of burglary. John was, it is alleged, caught in the act of carrying off some clothing from the dwelling house No. 139 First avenue. Committed for trial.

A RETURNED CALIFORNIAN GARROTED AND ROBBED IN THE PARK.—A man named Michael Feeney, of Bangor, Maine, arrived in this city on Thursday, on his way home from California, and put up at the Lovejoy Hotel. After supper he strolled into the Park, and was admiring the beautiful scenery in the vicinity of the fountain when he was accosted by three individuals, with whom he speedily became acquainted. They appeared very much interested in the young and growing State of California, and made pressing inquiries about the gold diggings there, all of which Mr Feeney endeavored to answer to the best of his ability. Finally, the party politely invited Mr. Feeney to go and treat them, which invitation he accepted. They then conducted him to an oyster saloon situated under a mock auction shop, when Mr. F. paid fifty cents for four drinks. One of the party then requested Mr. F. to give him a shilling to buy his supper with; but Mr. F. having overheard the same man tell the barkeeper to charge high for the drinks, denied the request, and was even carried so far by his indignant feelings, that he told the young man that in his opinion, if he got a good chance, he would steal, at which remark the fellow only laughed. Mr. Feeney then resolved to cut his acquaintance, and go with the other gentlemen. Having settled for the drinks, he started out to return to his hotel. Upon reaching the sidewalk one of his companions pointed to the City Hall, which was lighted up, the Aldermen being in session, and asked Mr. Feeney if he knew what house that was. Mr. Feeney did not know. "Well, I do," said the fellow, with a knowing wink, "that's one o' the houses; what do you say to going over there and having a time?" Mr. Feeney assented, and the party strolled into the Park arm in arm. Suddenly Mr. Feeney felt somebody choking him and somebody else pounding his face, and immediately fell down. When he got up again there was nobody near him, his pockets were inside out and empty, and a ring for which he paid four bits at Acapulco, Mexico, had been stripped from his finger. The contents of his pockets which were missing were three five dollar gold pieces, a receipt from Lovejoy's Hotel for over a thousand dollars deposited there for safe keeping, a baggage check, a knife, and a key. Yesterday morning he appeared before Justice Welsh, who, on hearing his story, sent two officers with him to see if he could recognise any of the parties at the saloon they visited. As yet no clue to the garroters has been ascertained.

ROBBERY IN THE RESIDENCE OF THE CLERK OF THE COUNCILMEN.—On Thursday night the residence of C. T. McClenachan, in Twenty-eighth street, was burglariously entered and robbed of several articles of silver ware, an overcoat, some segars and other property, valued in all at fifty dollars. Mr. McClenachan did not retire to bed until one o'clock on Friday morning, when he went through the house and left everything secure. In the morning he found that the bars of the basement windows had been pried apart, and the kitchen entered apparently by several persons, who, after collecting all the valuables within their reach, sat down and regaled themselves with several bottles of champagne. The burglars entered the house adjoining by going through the back yard of the first house. The extent of their depredations at the latter place could not be ascertained.

Board of Aldermen.

REMONSTRANCE AGAINST ALBANY LEGISLATIVE ENCROACHMENT.

The Board of Aldermen held a special meeting last evening, pursuant to the following call:—

NEW YORK, April 1, 1859.

HON. THOS. MCSPEDON, President Board of Aldermen:—

DEAR SIR—The undersigned, members of the Board of Aldermen, respectfully request you to convene the Board of Aldermen on Friday (this) afternoon, April 1, 1859, at two o'clock, in the chamber of the Board, for the purpose of devising such measures and taking such action as to them may appear best calculated to prevent the passage of any act or acts by the Legislature of this state having a tendency to interfere with or curtail the vested rights of the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the city, and such other business in such connection as may legitimately come before the Board.

GEO. STARR, Seventh district.
MICHAEL TUOMEY, Sixth district.
JOHN H. BRADY, Fifth district.
HENRY SMITH, First district.
F. J. A. BOOLE, Twelfth district.
WM. J. PECK, Eleventh district.
JOHN T. HENRY, Third district.
THOMAS STEPHENS, Fourth district.
JOHN J. BRADLEY, Fourteenth district.
THOS. W. ADAMS, Eighth district.

Thereupon the President issued the usual call for a meeting of the Board.

Present—Thomas McSpedon, Esq., President, in the chair; Aldermen Smith, Henry, Stephens, Brady, Tuomey, Starr, Lynes, Peck, Boole, Bradley, Owens and Genet.

On motion, the reading of the minutes of the last meeting was dispensed with.

The following remonstrance against the passage of an act amending the charter of the city of New York was presented by Alderman SMITH:—

TO THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK:—

The petition of the Common Council of the city of New York respectfully represents—

That by the laws and constitution of this State they are the legally constituted guardians of the rights and interests of the people of the city of New York.

That elected directly by the people, they are immediately and directly responsible to the people for the performance of this trust.

That among the duties devolving upon them is, of necessity, that of taking care that no usurpation of the powers properly belonging to the city government shall be permitted.

That therefore they now approach the Legislature with a humble remonstrance against a measure which is calculated, as it seems to them, to invade the chartered and constitutional rights of the city.

That they are