THE NEW YORK HERALD.

WHOLE NO. 8407. MORNING EDITION—MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1859. PRICE TWO CENTS.

NEWS FROM EUROPE.

Arrival of the Ocean Queen off Cape Race.

FOUR DAYS LATER INTELLIGENCE.

WRECK OF THE AMERICAN SHIP BEN BOLT.

The £12,000,000 Russian Loan Taken Up.

IMPROVEMENT IN THE COTTON MARKET.

BREADSTUFFS AND PROVISIONS DECLINING,

&c., &c., &c.

ST. JOHNS, N. F., Sept. 10, 1859.

The Vanderbilt steamship Ocean Queen, Capt. Seabury, from Havre via Cowes, passed Cape Race at five o'clock this (Saturday) morning, on her way to New York, where she will be due on Wednesday next.

The Ocean Queen was boarded by the news yacht, by which means the following summary of her news was obtained:—

The Ocean Queen sailed from Havre on the 31st of August, and from Cowes at two o'clock A. M. of the 1st of September. She has 300 passengers, a large cargo, $40,000 in specie and a heavy mail.

The Purser's report says:—September 1, three o'clock P. M., passed steamship Fulton, from New York, off the Lizzard, bound in. September 4, lat. 50 12, long. 21 30, passed steamship Vanderbilt, from New York for Southampton and Havre.

The Ocean Queen experienced heavy westerly gales for three days.

Our Liverpool correspondent says:—

The steamships Anglo-Saxon, for Quebec, and Kangaroo, for New York, were detained till the night of the 31st, the stormy weather preventing the embarkation of their passengers.

The whole amount of the Russian twelve million loan had been subscribed, and exchanges on St. Petersburg had fallen three per cent.

A Bavarian loan, for the purpose of defraying the military expenses of the country, had been issued at 98½ per cent.

There was nothing of importance known respecting the doings of the Zurich Conference.

Advices from Athens report the dissolution of the Greek Chambers.

The steamship Kangaroo, from New York 18th ult., arrived at Liverpool on Sunday the 28th.

The steamship Teutonia, from New York 15th ult., arrived at Southampton on the 30th, *en route* to Hamburg.

The steamship Nova Scotian, from Quebec 20th ult., arrived at Liverpool on the 30th.

The steamship Circassian, from New York 18th ult., via St. Johns, N. F., arrived at Galway on the 30th.

The American ship Ben Bolt, from Havana, bound to Falmouth, was wrecked at Brendos on the 25th ult.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE LONDON MONEY MARKET.

Consols were steady, and closed on the 31st at 95½ a 95⅝.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

The sales of the three days ending the 30th ult. in the Liverpool cotton market were 23,000 bales, of which speculators and exporters each took 2,500 bales. The market closed firm, with an advancing tendency, and in some cases prices were one-sixteenth of a penny per pound higher; middling Orleans was quoted at 7 1-16d., and middling uplands at 6 13-16d.

STATE OF TRADE IN MANCHESTER.

The Manchester market was firmer, and in some cases prices were slightly higher.

LIVERPOOL BREADSTUFFS MARKET.

The Liverpool breadstuffs market was very dull. Richardson, Spence & Co. state that the weather had been stormy and unfavorable for the crops, but the harvest was almost over. Flour was very dull and easier, but quotations were unchanged: American, 10s. a 12s. Wheat very dull: red, 7s. 6d. a 9s.; white, 9s. a 9s. 6d. Corn steady; mixed and yellow, 5s. 6d. a 5s. 9d.; white, 7s. a 7s. 6d.

LIVERPOOL PROVISION MARKET.

The Liverpool provision market had a declining tendency. Beef was heavy, and holders were pressing on the market. Pork heavy and nominal. Bacon dull and nominally unchanged. Lard quiet, but steady. Tallow slow of sale, but prices unaltered: Butchers', 55s.

LIVERPOOL PRODUCE MARKET.

Rosin was steady at 3s. 9d. a 3s. 10d. for common. Sugar steady. Rice quiet. Coffee quiet. Ashes quiet, at 27s. a 28s. 6d. Spirits turpentine steady, at 34s. 6d. Quercitron bark, sales unimportant.

LATEST MARKETS.

LIVERPOOL, Aug. 31—Evening.

The cotton market is steady; estimated sales to-day 8,000 bales, including 1,000 each to speculators and exporters, holders offer freely, but do not press sales.

Breadstuffs dull. Sales unimportant.

Provisions very dull.

In the London market wheat and flour were dull; tea unchanged; sugar and rice heavy; coffee and tallow firm.

The Great Eastern.

OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENCE.

LONDON, August 26, 1859.

The Destination of the Great Eastern—The Additional Offers of Mr. Lever—His Efforts to get the Ship—Will She go to New York, &c.

The great ship, about which I wrote you week before last, is now an acknowledged mechanical success, and now, as usual in great joint stock enterprises, there is every probability that the managing directors will make it commercially a failure. One of the two managing directors was a contractor under government for blowing down the granite rock at Holyhead to make a safe harbor of refuge for vessels bound out and in, to and from, the dangerous harbor of Liverpool. Another was once M. P. for Weymouth, and they are desirous of grinding their own axes, and sinking the interests of the shareholders by taking the ship to their little one-horse towns, to make political capital out of. In the midst of it all the money is all spent, large liabilities incurred, and the ship that they boast can carry ten thousand persons has only accommodations and berths for five hundred passengers. Right on the face of all this, Mr. John O. Lever, M. P., the spirited projector of the Galway line of steamers, has largely increased his first offer of £20,000, making his offer £25,000 cash down for the use of the vessel for the one voyage to America and back—find coals for the round trip, pay harbor dues, &c., and put up berths and fittings for 1,000 more passengers; so that he will have to give check at once for not less than £40,000 (say $200,000) to charter this monster craft for a single voyage.

Of course he has to victual the ship, effect his insurance, and go to innumerable other expenses. This ship under charter on these terms to Mr. Lever would net the shareholders at least $100,000 for the round trip, and stamp the scheme as a commercial success at once. How he is to make money out of it he doubtless knows; and at any rate he has greater facilities for booking passengers than any man in the United Kingdom. One of the vessels of his line, the Jason, took out last week from Galway some 650 passengers, being a larger number than ever left Europe for America in a steamer. How, then, will you be prepared for the fact that the directors have seen fit to decline this most splendid offer? No mortal believes that the Great Ship Company, who are not in the business of booking passengers, and not in the trade at all, can get one-half as many passengers as Mr. Lever can. There are 3,000 shareholders to the Great Eastern, and they will hold the directors to a rigid accountability for their action in the case. In the meantime, the great ship leaves her anchorage for her trial trip next week, the 3d of September. The pressure on the management by the stockholders is already very heavy, and it is anticipated that the ship will yet be chartered to Mr. Lever. If so, you will have the privilege of seeing her at New York, or as near that village as old Neptune will allow her to go.

The Conference at Zurich.

[Correspondence of the Newark Advertiser.]

ZURICH, August 16, 1859.

The Conference "met in thunder, fire and drenching rain"—a frightful hurricane that deluged the country. "No wonder," said the knowing old German porter with the golden mace this morning, "that the elements should have been squally ever since. It was a sad omen. We have a proverb in our country which says, "nothing goes right in a storm." "Not," exclaimed he, quickly recovering the breath of responsibility, with a most diplomatic shrug, "that I say any thing goes wrong in the Council. No! not I." And we outsiders are no wiser than the Dogberry of the door; for the plenipotentiaries keep their secrets well. The federal and the cantonal authorities are courteous and hospitable. Dinners and soirees are frequent enough: but there is no "truth in wine" this time. Italy and Villafranca are no more mentioned than religion.

All we certainly know is, that Cabinet messengers are kept constantly on the run to and from Paris, Vienna and Turin, as if there were secrets not to be confided to the telegraph, though specially devoted to the service. A Yankee physiognomist might guess that Messrs. Des Ambrois and Nigra have not been able to digest the terms, and that Messrs. Colleredo and de Bourqueney begin to feel that the French Alexander must cut the gordian knot which no human skill seems able to untie. Was there ever such a puzzle? Not in history, certainly.

They say that Mons. Cavour looks on with eager eye from his retirement near Geneva; that he looks sober, and detects, probably through the advices of his old colleague, M. Nigra, traces of further mischief. But the friends of the ex-Minister of the Piedmontese Council have hitherto failed to induce him to speak. The day to tell his experience has not arrived. But it is sure to come. It would be interesting if we could have both the Emperor and the Count in court together. We shall surely have one of them in Parliament if liberty is ever re-established in Turin. And then he may speak. Meantime he must stand and wait.

We found the hotels and lodgings generally well occupied—rather more visitors, they say, than usual, not on account of the Conference, it is parenthetically added, out of respect to the company, but the hot summer. I see by the weather table of the hotel that Fahrenheit has not been above ninety degrees during the season. At sunrise this morning we were up to catch the amorous old sun caressing the hills; it marked seventy-four degrees—two degrees below summer heat. Fancy a night here in the dog days! The lake air is delicious—quite corroborates the exhilarating virtue of the view, for the eye drinks refreshment at every glance.

Beyond the panorama there is nothing now poetic in the birthplace of Gessner, unless there be poetry in steam. The ingenious old pastor, Levater, is the nearest approach to romance ever produced here, though they do say that Pestalozzi did here teach the young idea how to shoot. But polemical Protestants, who almost swear by the graves of Hammerlin and Zwingle, see in these brick factories and this thriving moral population full confirmation of the rich promises of their faith. It is, in truth, this living old asylum of freedom, the busiest place in all Switzerland.

We were conducted through some half dozen silk and cotton factories yesterday, which discoursed most excellent music, though not to the tune of "Old Hundred," beside a machine establishment with a republican force of seven hundred and fifty. But I am not in the humor for statistics, being on the wing for yonder inviting looking hills with a party of five Yankees—in pursuit of the picturesque. One of the number, whose *rôle* it is, promises you a report of the chase. *Au revoir.*

The Plenipotentiaries are not in session to-day, waiting orders; and some half dozen of their *attachés* join our party.

Fire in East Twentieth Street, and Loss of Life.

ONE MAN SUFFOCATED AND A CHILD DANGEROUSLY BURNED—SEVERAL FIREMAN INJURED—ONE HORSE AND SEVERAL SWINE BURNED TO DEATH.

Between eleven and twelve o'clock on Saturday night a fire was discovered in the charcoal yard of John Robbins, in Twentieth street, between avenue A and the East river. The wind was blowing somewhat fresh at the time from the southeast, and spread the flames instantly to the lime, brick and lath yard, No. 277 East Twenty-first street, owned by James L. Black & Co., and thence to a two story frame dwelling house adjoining, owned and occupied by Herman Dahl. Before the flames communicated to the building the family were aroused, but the smoke from the coal yard filled the house to suffocation. Mrs. Dahl awoke her three children, took them to the window, and told them to jump to the sidewalk, a distance of about eight feet. She then went into the back room and awoke a man named Patrick Gallagher, who was stopping at the house for the night. While she was getting Gallagher out the smoke choked him, and he fell insensible to the floor. She then made her own escape to the street and soon learned that one of her own children, a boy aged eight years, was still in the building. Efforts were at once made to rescue the unfortunate child, and several persons entered the room, when the child was found insensible on the floor. It was removed from the building and taken charge of by its parents. Its face and body is considerably blistered and it is feared the boy is burned inwardly. The attending physician says it cannot possibly survive.

A horse owned by Mr. Robbins, in the stable on Twentieth street, was burned to death. Five large hogs belonging to Mr. Dahl were also burned to death.

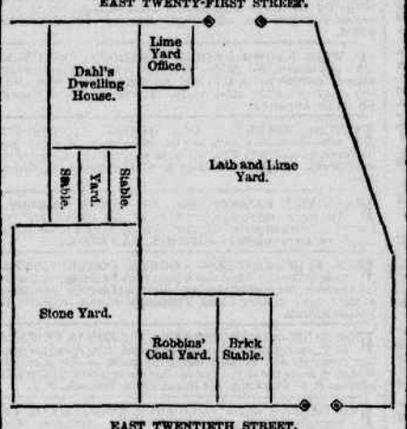
The fire originated, it is said, among some pulverized charcoal in the building of Mr. Robbins, and thus communicated the flames to the building. Mr. Robbins' loss will be about $500—not insured. The entire stock of lath, lime and hair in the yard of Black & Co. was destroyed; loss said to be about $4,000—partly insured. The sheds over the stone yard of Mr. Shiff, together with considerable stone, was much damaged; the loss could not be ascertained. Mr. Dahl's loss in stock, furniture and building will be about $1,500—not insured.

Several firemen were injured by the falling in of the sheds of the stone yard, but not seriously, as far as could be ascertained by our reporter.

Gallagher's body was taken to the dead house at the Bellvue Hospital, where the Coroner held an inquest yesterday. The deceased was about fifty years of age. He resided at the back of Greenpoint, Long Island. He leaves a wife, but no children.

It seems somewhat remarkable that the deceased should have lost his life. The place where the fire originated was over one hundred feet from the building in which he was suffocated. The following diagram will show the reader at a glance the true position of the premises:—

EAST TWENTY-FIRST STREET.



EAST TWENTIETH STREET.

Coroners' Inquests.

SUICIDE AT FRENCH'S HOTEL.—A boarder at French's Hotel, named J. K. Kearney, was found dead in his bed about eight o'clock yesterday morning, by one of the chambermaids. A post mortem examination was made by Dr. W. Beach, and the stomach was found to contain a dark colored fluid strongly resembling laudanum. The organs generally, with the exception of the lungs, which were slightly diseased, appeared to be in a healthy condition. An inquest was held by Coroner Gamble, and after a due examination into the circumstances of the case a verdict of "suicide by laudanum" was rendered. From the appearance of the body of deceased, which was marked in several places with Indian ink, after the fashion of sailors, it is supposed that he was a seafaring man; and judging by his evident respectability, it is presumed he must have been a captain or above the ordinary class of mariners. He was apparently about forty-five years of age. There were no papers about his person to indicate the cause which impelled him to put an end to his existence.

ANOTHER SUICIDE.—Henry F. Wood, residing at 152 East Twenty-fourth street, committed suicide yesterday afternoon by taking laudanum. The deceased, it appears, had been addicted to the intemperate use of alcoholic liquors, and had been for some time in very low spirits. He had repeatedly threatened self-destruction, but no notice was ever taken of him. On Saturday afternoon he was found lying in bed in an insensible condition, and medical aid was immediately sent for, but every effort proved useless. An inquest was held on his body, and a verdict rendered in accordance with the facts.

FOUND DEAD IN HER BED.—On Saturday afternoon an inquest was held on the body of a woman named Mary Lynch, who was found dead in her bed at her residence, No. 36 Trinity place, at half-past four o'clock A. M. The husband was arrested on suspicion of having a hand in the matter, but it appearing from the testimony that deceased was of intemperate habits, and the jury rendering a verdict of "Death from compression of the brain," he was honorably acquitted.

DEATH FROM OVER-APPLICATION OF HEAT.—A few weeks ago a German woman named Seresa Limberk, sixty years of age, was attacked with bilious colic, and had warm iron plates, wrapped up in towels, applied to her abdomen for the purpose of affording her relief. On removing the plates it was discovered that they had been overheated, and that the abdomen was intensely inflamed. The consequence was that gangrene set in, and the patient finally expired on Friday evening. An inquest was held on the body, and the jury rendered a verdict in accordance with the facts.

City Politics.

DEMOCRATIC DELEGATES FOR THE SYRACUSE CONVENTION.

The Tammany Hall Fifth Assembly District Convention, for the election of a delegate and alternate for the Syracuse Convention, after failing to elect at two preceding meetings, met again on Saturday night at No. 143 Mercer street, and elected Richard T. Compton as delegate and John R. Ryer as alternate. The vote stood for Compton 9, for Delavan 3. This makes the New York delegation to Syracuse complete.

The Recent Celestial Phenomena.

THE AURORA BOREALIS, AS SEEN IN CUBA, BERMUDA, MISSISSIPPI, TEXAS, KENTUCKY, AND FROM SEA—VARIED AND INTERESTING DESCRIPTIONS.

The beautiful display of northern lights which illuminated the heavens on the evening of Sunday, the 28th of August, and which was repeated with more or less splendor throughout the remainder of the week, appears to have awakened admiration and awe from one end of the republic to the other. The papers received at our office from all sections of the country declare its glory, and many of the ships that arrive here report the same celestial phenomenon. The citizens of Montreal and of New Orleans gazed with equal wonder at the "merry dancers" in the northern sky. The people of St. Louis and of Havana were alike witnesses of the spectacle. The various descriptions given of it are deserving of notice.

We find, for instance, in our maritime intelligence of yesterday, a report from the bark Pride of the Sea, from Cuba, stating that on the Thursday night of the week in question,

At twenty-five minutes to 1 A. M., a bright star or cloud appeared in the northwest, which shot up rays resembling the aurora at the north in winter, and in thirty or forty minutes formed an arch across the horizon from northwest to northeast, which became lighter as it arose, and at 1:15 it was lighted enough to read the smallest print without a light. At the time the horizon was cloudy, and overhead was very clear, the larger stars being just seen. The arch passed over to the southward at 2:15, when it became dark again.

The bark James W. Paige, which arrived here on Thursday from Monrovia, on the western coast of Africa, made the following report of the aurora and of a storm which preceded it:—

Had fine weather to latitude 34, longitude 69 30, when on the 1st of September took a very heavy gale from W.S.W., with very heavy squalls, accompanied by thunder and lightning; at eleven A. M. was struck by lightning; the first flash struck the foremast and descended down the lightning conductor, which was boomed out ten feet from the side; the second flash struck the mizen mast and descended down the lightning rod, which was not boomed out like the other, and went through it to the mizen chains, and magnetized them so that it affected the compass and caused it to revolve with great rapidity. The man at the wheel was stunned and could not see for ten minutes after the flash. At night, by bearing of the North star, found that both of the compasses in the binnacle were affected three points to the westward; they kept deranged till the 3d inst., when they got to be nearly correct. The same night observed a great phenomenon. From eight P. M. till three A. M. the whole horizon was as light as any sunshiny day; the peculiarity of it was that the sky was completely overcast with very black clouds, and at times it rained in torrents. All hands forward were very much alarmed.

The Havana correspondent of the *Noticioso de Nueva York* says that on the night of Sunday, August 28, a physical phenomenon appeared in the sky and attracted great attention, the eastern horizon being covered with a mantle of blood-red hue. "The general belief," he continues, "is that it was one of those northern aurora so rare in these latitudes." It was also seen from the deck of the steamship Cahawba, from New Orleans to Havana.

It seems to have presented as brilliant an appearance to the islanders of Bermuda as it did to the dwellers among Canadian snows; and that is what makes this phenomenon so very remarkable, it being at rare and long intervals that it is visible in southern latitudes. The Bermuda *Royal Gazette* says of it:—

This singular phenomenon (the aurora borealis) made its appearance in our northern hemisphere on Sunday evening last. It appeared to ascend from a few degrees above the horizon towards the zenith, assuming a variety of shapes and beautiful colors—sometimes in tremulous sheets of a pale yellow, changing gradually into a deep crimson, or shooting upwards in streams of light resembling those frequently observed from the setting sun. It covered at times the entire space between N. W. and N. E., leaving the sky, from the horizon to its apparent base, perfectly clear. Towards ten o'clock it gradually died away, when the whole of the northern sky threw out a light resembling the pale light of the moon, which was sufficiently bright to cast a deep shadow from every object on the land. This light continued until dawn of day. The last time, we believe, that we were visited by the Northern twilight was in the year 1839.

A correspondent of the same paper describes the aurora in this manner:—

First, there was a red glare as if thrown upward by a blazing ship; then this seemed mixed with gigantic stripes which melted into something like the beams shot forth by the rising sun ere it bursts in glory o'er our sleeping world; again this changed into the inclowing light of the queenly moon, wading her nightly course in azure heaven; and then, as if the east irradiated was by Sol, while the light of night held her sceptre o'er the far stretching north. Still other changes take place in this shifting scene, for the northwest reflects a burning Vesuvius beautifully studded with glittering stars, and during all this time might be beheld great dark clouds shooting upwards between it and the sky, forming a striking contrast to the illuminated opaque above.

The Natchez *Courier* says that the display of Thursday night was still grander than that of the preceding Sunday night. Its editor observed it from one to three o'clock, and thus describes it:—

Due north the heavens were of a silver glow, resembling the early gray dawn. Northeast and east, it was as if a sun of fire was about to rise, to usher in a day of warmer light than mortals were prepared to expect. The rich red glow of morn sprung up in a cone of light almost to the zenith, warm with deep red colors, and brilliant with electric phosphorescence. Nor was the shape or color of the light steady. At one moment it sprung into a broad band of white, like a silver bow, darting at once into existence, fitful in its display, and disappearing in a sea of blood,

Like the Borealis race
That flit e're you could point the place.

At another, it was the deep red glare that gave the warning of an earthly conflagration. In the due west a dark cloud was observed, while from its jagged edges sprung forth the same strange illuminating light. From time to time rays darted forth with almost the rapidity of thought, and extended to and far beyond the zenith, white as snowy pillars and scarlet as the fervency and zeal that betokened their aspirations to a heavenly home. At two o'clock, although no moon was at the horizon, the light was sufficient to read the common print of a book. Bells on plantations rung the hour for work, while our good people in the neighboring town of Fayette thought the world was to be at an end and the general conflagration at hand. It was indeed a magnificent display of the light of the Omnipotent. The electric arm was extended, and it was evident that beyond the "two great lights" there was still other and richer light in the hollow of His great right hand.

At Galveston, in Texas, the aurora of Sunday night was equally magnificent. A correspondent of the Galveston *News*, who witnessed it from the Observatory, says:—

The whole sky, from Ursa Major to the Zodiac in the east, was occupied by the streams, or spiral columns that rose from the horizon. Spread over the same extent was an exquisite roseate tint, which faded and returned, and moved from one extreme to the other of the panorama. Stately columns of light reaching up about 45 deg. from the horizon, moved in grave dignity westward, about one degree for every ninety seconds of time. Some of the groups of towers preserved their form sufficiently to be identified in their march from the Milky Way to Ursa Major, or some forty degrees. At 9 P. M. the whole of the streaking had faded, leaving only a sort of twilight over the northern sky. We ceased observation. It is proper to remark that there were frequent flashes of lightning, apparently from distant clouds, not less than 100 miles, along the whole extent of the aurora; but no clouds were visible, except a single streak near the horizon, which I at first mistook for the arch on which the pyramids of auroral light usually rest. It is not probable, however, that the atmospheric disturbances and general rains along the northern sky had anything to do with the production of the aurora. On the contrary, I mention it merely to show that the meteor was not cut off or impaired by the intervention of a storm; but had such an altitude, and was a part of so extended a phenomenon, as not to be disturbed by any local atmospheric movements. At 3 A. M. (29th) I awoke, and perceiving that it was very light outside, rose, and found the whole northern heavens again on fire. Ascending to the Observatory, I was repaid by a display I have never seen equalled since the memorable aurora of Sept. 1, 1839. The whole distance before named was tinted with the roseate hue—darker, nearly crimsoned, at the two flanks. In the centre, near the meridian, stood a stupendous pyramid of white light, with its apex near the zenith. On either side, at some twenty degrees, stood a pyramid of rosy light, each about sixty degrees in height, and in exactly symmetrical positions. "The Palace of the Sylphid Queen," described by Drake, must have seemed like this sublime architecture—

Its lofty columns gleaming bright,
Were streamers of the northern light.

Scarcely had I sketched the outline of this noble spectacle, when it faded, and suddenly rent the columns into small spires, as if by magic. All drifted westward and faded; returned, and faded again and again—

Till morning spread her rosy wings
And rolled her chariot wheels of light.

The needle was agitated, trembled and danced during the display, showing its well established magnetic or electric character.

It would appear, according to a Cincinnati paper, that a Kentucky man has been outdoing Meriam in auroral Munchausenism. It is stated:—

The attention of Mr. Adam Kiger, of Covington, on stepping into his lawn on Friday morning, was arrested by a vast quantity of silky, fibrous floss lying scattered at hap-hazard upon his shrubbery and grass. Upon touching a tree, or portion of it, he received a very sensible, although slight shock, of electricity or galvanism. His attention being thus arrested, he immediately summoned his domestics, and they proceeded at once to gather a considerable quantity of the dew-spangled fibre, which Mr. Kiger found, by actual weight, after desiccation, to be two ounces seven grains, some of which he bottled for future inspection and experiment, and some he made into skeins of silk.

This corroborates the theory of the Sage of Brooklyn Heights in regard to the silkery of the skies.

We have before alluded to the simpler effect of the northern lights upon telegraph operations. The Boston operators found that during the continuance of the auroral influence their only plan of sending messages was by disconnecting the wires from the electric batteries and working them entirely by the auroral current. The following is recorded as the conversation between the operators of the Boston and Portland offices:—

BOSTON (to Portland operator)—Please cut off your battery entirely from the line for fifteen minutes.

PORTLAND—I will do so. It is now disconnected.

BOSTON—Mine is also disconnected, and we are working with the auroral current. How do you receive my writing?

PORTLAND—Better than with our batteries on. The current comes and goes gradually.

BOSTON—My current is very strong at times, and we can work better without batteries, as the aurora seems to neutralize and augment our batteries alternately, making the current too strong at times for our relay magnets. Suppose we work without batteries while we are affected by this trouble?

PORTLAND—Very well. Shall I go ahead with business?

BOSTON—Yes. Go ahead.

The Boston *Atlas*, alluding to this circumstance, adds that "the wires were worked for about two hours without the usual batteries, on the auroral current—working better, as the operators state, than with the batteries connected. The current varied, increasing and decreasing alternately, but by graduating the current adjuster a sufficiently steady effect was produced to work the lines with but little interruption."

The same remarkable effect was noticed at several other telegraph offices. Mr. E. W. Royce, the operator at Washington, thus relates his experience:—

I did not know that the aurora had made its appearance until eight or half-past eight o'clock. I had been working "combination" to Richmond, and had great difficulty from the changing of the current. It seemed as if there was a storm at Richmond. Concluding that this was the case, I abandoned that wire and tried to work the Northern wire, but met with the same difficulty. Four fire or ten minutes I would have no trouble, then the current would change and become so weak that it could hardly be felt. It would then gradually change to a "ground" so strong that I could not lift the magnet. While the aurora lasted the same phenomena were observable. There was no rattling or cracking of the magnet, as is the case in a thunder storm. I looked at the paper between the arrestors, but found no holes. Philadelphia divided circuit at the request of New York, and we succeeded in getting off what business we had. The aurora disappeared a little after ten o'clock—after which we worked through to New York and had no difficulty. During the display I was calling Richmond, and had my hand on the iron plate. Happening to lean towards the sounder, which is against the wall, my forehead grazed a ground wire which runs down the wall near the sounder. Immediately I received a very severe electric shock, which stunned me for an instant. An old gentleman who was sitting facing me, and but a few feet distant, said he saw a spark of fire jump from my forehead to the sounder.

Thus it seems to be proved, beyond all cavil or dispute, that the aurora borealis is not a simple reflection of the sun's rays from the cones of icebergs, as was so long supposed, but decidedly electrical in its origin and character. It appears to be, in fact, a subdued form of lightning. Will the savants brush up their wits and try to give the world some reliable and well defined theory of the aurora? We have furnished them, in this article, with the necessary *data*.

Our Norfolk (Va.) Correspondence.

NORFOLK, Sept. 7, 1859.

Destructive Conflagration—Loss of City and Theatrical Property—The New Opera House—The Weather, &c.

Our citizens were surprised last night, between the hours of one and two o'clock, by the breaking out of a large and destructive fire on Main street, which resulted in the consuming of Mechanics' Hall, a large and commodious building, containing on its ground floor several handsome stores, and above a well constructed and spacious concert room. The fire was supposed by certain persons to have originated in the latter by some mismanagement in the extinguishing of the lights, Messrs. Briggs & Co.'s "Excelsior Opera Troupe" having, a few hours previously, concluded their evening performance there; while others conjecture it to have been the work of an incendiary.

The flames broke forth from the rear of Mechanics' Hall extending across Boush's lane to Peppen's restaurant, enveloping it; also, besides the stores of the "Hall," Ferant's merchant tailoring establishment, Walters' large upholstery, Tompkins' cabinet warerooms, and Apothecaries' Hall, recently refitted and refilled by Messrs. Cowdery & De Buce, with all pertaining to the pharmaceutists' art; Mr. Bonean's fine panorama of China and Australia, which was in an upper room of the hall; the whole outfit, stage dresses and expensive musical instruments of Messrs. Briggs, Mr. Ben Peddle's restauraunt, and Ullman's shoe store. Mechanics' Hall was built some ten years since by the Mechanics' Association of this city, at a cost of some $20,000, which is covered by an insurance of $14,000. Walters & Co. saved many of their best goods, and are amply secured by a policy of $6,000. Mr. Tompkins is insured for $2,000; Cowderey & De Buce lose $5,000, on which they have $2,000 insurance; the Ethiopian troupe lose between $2,000 and $3,000, and Mr. Bonean's loss is estimated at $6,000; no insurance. Mr. Peddle is a large loser, both by fire and water, with no insurance, and Hamberger & Co., next to him, we should state, suffered $500 damages by water alone.

Our new Opera House is just completed and presents a fine interior. It is a little singular that just as Mechanics' Hall received its finishing touch, the old Avon theatre should be consumed by fire. This new hall will be opened to-morrow night for its initiatory entertainment by a grand concert under the direction of Professor Soulkerd.

The weather is as cold as October with us, and the clouds heavy and wintry in appearance. The mosquito war not yet on the wane.

Sporting Intelligence.

MORE AMERICAN RACEHORSES FOR ENGLAND.

The City of Washington steamer, which sailed from this port for Liverpool on Saturday, took out two recent purchases of Mr. Ten Broeck, to add to his present stable of American horses now in training at Newmarket. They were purchased of the well known breeder of racing stock, A. Keene Richards, Esq., of Kentucky, who is at present in England, and consist of the celebrated three-year-old Albion colt Sherritt, and a very fine looking filly by Lecomte, dam by imported Glencoe, named Pretty-by-Night, and which is consequently half sister to Umpire, which has lately been so successful on the English turf for Mr. Ten Broeck. The performances of Sherritt in this country were of a very high order, as at the Lexington (Kentucky) Spring Meeting he won the Association stakes for three-year-olds, mile heats, in 1:47½, 1:45½ and 1:46½, beating a field of eight horses. At the same meeting he also won the Citizens' stake for three-year-olds, two mile heats, beating four others in 3:43½—3:42. He is by imported Albion, dam by imported Leviathan, out of imported Anna Maria; stands fifteen and a half hands high, of a sorrel color, with a plainish head, good neck and shoulder, capital back and barrel, and remarkably strong quarters. He will make a capital handicap horse in England, as he has altogether the appearance of a horse not easily to be stopped by weight, while he has shown here that he possesses both speed and endurance in an extraordinary degree. The two year old is a nice looking filly, with good legs, small head and strong shoulders. They were both in excellent condition for the voyage, and it is probable that we may hear of Sherritt making his *débût* on the English turf at one of the Newmarket October gatherings in some of the numerous handicap plate races then run for.

It is currently stated that the great success of Mr. Ten Broeck in England will induce many of our Southern turf magnates to take out some of their best stock there next year.

Naval Intelligence.

THE BROOKLYN NAVY YARD.—The dismissal of workmen from the different departments in the Brooklyn Navy Yard continues daily. It is thought that five hundred men will be sufficient to keep the work going, on hand, during the coming winter. The work now under way is only such that is imperatively necessary for the exigencies of the service. The aspect of things in and about the yard have changed wonderfully in the last few months. There is to be seen no crowds of idle, listless workmen saunntering in groups around the corners, in the streets, or sidewalks, but every man now works—something that was almost unheard of before—not knowing at what moment he may receive his ticket of leave. Our reporter was told by an officer in the yard that there had been more work done since the issue of the Naval Investigating Committee, with five hundred men, than was done by a thousand men when politics ruled the roast. This state of things is truly gratifying, and it is to be hoped that the example which Mr. Secretary Toucey has introduced will be imitated by his successor. The work now going ahead is on the new stone ways under the eastern ship house, which is nearly completed, and finishing up of the steamers Wyandott, Mohawk and Iroquois, the balance being confined principally to the shops. The two former vessels have only a few minor jobs to be done on them, such as adjusting machinery, painting, &c. Their officers have mostly reported for duty. The marine guards for these two vessels will be detailed from Philadelphia and Washington, the balance of their crew from the United States receiving ship North Carolina. No particular day has been set as yet for their going in commission. The Iroquois (new gun-boat) is having her rigging set up, and machinery put in, all of which is nearly completed. She will not remain in the hands of the workmen more than a fortnight. The steamers Susquehanna and Niagara are lying in ordinary, covered with canvass, no orders having been received as yet relative to their overhauling, but it is thought workmen will be put on them after the completion of the Wyandott, Mohawk and Iroquois.

The following midshipmen in the United States navy have been warranted by the Department as masters:—George A. Bigelow, Robert T. Bradford, Robert L. Pythian, A. P. Cook, W. P. Evans, George S. Shryrock, Leroy Fitch, J. W. Harris, F. H. Eastman, R. R. Wallace, Chester Hatfield, C. J. McDougal, T. R. Porter, J. C. Moseley, G. H. Perkins, G. M. Blodgett, W. N. Allen, and Nathaniel Green.

Political Intelligence.

KINGS COUNTY POLITICS.—The Hon. S. D. Morris, County Judge, who was a candidate for District Attorney, has publicly repudiated the proceedings of the County Convention, and declared his intention to run counter to their action in all and everything they have done, upon the alleged ground that the delegates represented only the rowdy and shoulder-hitting portion of the "unterrified;" and it is boldly stated that an entirely new ticket will be presented to the democratic electors of the county for their endorsement and approval at the ensuing election.

NEW JERSEY REPUBLICANS NON EST.—What has become of the republican party of New Jersey? In the Opposition State Convention, at Trenton, on the 7th, not a word was said about the everlasting niggers, free Territories, bleeding Kansas, or any of the clap-trap arrangements of that party. On the contrary, when a resolution was offered recommending Wm. L. Dayton for the Presidency, it was immediately put down by the tumult it raised from all parts of the house. They also overhauled the rubbish of the old whig party, and brought forth a candidate found slumbering in its ruins—one that has not taken any active part in the politics of the State for six years, but has voted against the republicans. Their organization is gone. Until a reorganization takes place the republicans will be without any distinctive party machinery in the State.

THE TWO-THIRDS RULE AT CHARLESTON.—Newspaper partisans of Mr. Stephen A. Douglas, says the Washington *States*, are busily engaged in efforts to prepare the Northern (democratic) popular mind for an attempt to ignore the two-thirds rule in the approaching Charleston Convention. The fidelity with which that rule has been adhered to in Democratic National Conventions has secured victory after victory to the party, when, had the conventions been less wise and persistent in that matter, defeat would surely have been the party's portion. It has never yet prevented the nomination of any man who could have been elected by the party to the Presidency, and is the rule of Democratic National Conventions, because in it exists a surety against the nomination of any one who, having numerous adherents among the politicians of the party, is still deficient in strength with the people.

NULLIFICATION IN MASSACHUSETTS.—The Boston *Post* states an important fact. It says that the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Massachusetts has

Drafted a new constitution, to be submitted to the Legislature and the people, in which he proposes to give to the General Court the power "to impose and levy reasonable duties and excises upon any produce, goods, wares, merchandise, and commodities whatsoever, brought into, produced, manufactured, or being within the same," &c., and to the Governor the power "to encounter, repel, resist, expel and pursue, by force of arms, as well by sea as by land, within or without the limits of this commonwealth, and also to kill, slay and destroy if necessary, and conquer, by fitting ways, enterprises and means whatsoever, all and every such person and persons as shall at any time hereafter, in a hostile manner attempt or enterprise the destruction, invasion, detriment, or annoyance of this commonwealth; and to use and exercise over the army and navy, and over the militia in actual service, the law martial, in time of war or invasion, and also in time of rebellion, declared by the Legislature to exist, as occasion shall necessarily require; and to take and surprise by all ways and means whatsoever, all and every such person or persons, with their ships, arms, ammunition and other goods, as shall in a hostile manner invade or attempt the invading, conquering or annoying this commonwealth."

THE CONCORD CLIQUE.—The Concord (N. H.) *Standard* says the Concord "clique" are bold in their assertion that they will oppose any candidate nominated at Charleston for the Presidency, unless it be Douglas or Franklin Pierce. It is said that Mr. Pierce is quite confident that he or Douglas will get the nomination if things are shrewdly managed.

THE NEW YORK CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION.—The manner in which the Secretary of State has issued the usual fall election notice, settles, so far as form goes, the election of Congressmen last year. No informality has been noticed by the Secretary on account of the alleged erroneous endorsement of ballots, which was for "Member of Congress" instead of "Representative in Congress"—so that Messrs. Sickles, Barr, Maclay, Cochran, Briggs, and Clark, members from our city, will all take their seats without objection.

THE SOUTHERN OPPOSITION.—The principles of the Southern opposition, says the *Louisville Democrat*, fit as loosely as a Zouave's trousers, and are as easily put on or off. They are fickle in their affections and not over particular. The favorite of yesterday is to-day a discarded courtezan.

"On dits of the Day," for the Washington *States*, say that it is "a fixed impression upon our mind that Emerson Etheridge will be the presiding officer of the XXXVIth House of Representatives."

OHIO REPUBLICAN TROUBLES.—The Republicans in Ohio are not as harmonious as doves. Giddings denounces Corwin for uttering anti-republican doctrines, while the strife between the friends of Chase and Corwin, in nominating candidates for the Legislature, in view of the choice of United States Senator, is also very sharp; but Chase has the inside track, they say.

WOULD ENFORCE THE LAW.—Mr. Dennison, opposition candidate for Governor of Ohio, used the following language during his discussion with Mr. Ranney, at Tiffin:—

He wants to know what I think of obeying the fugitive slave law. I will here state incidentally that the silly story about my having declared that "I will use the bayonet" to resist the execution of this law, is utterly false and without the slightest foundation of truth. So long as the law, odious as it is, stands upon the statute books of the nation, I will not resist its execution, but will do my duty under the constitution, as an officer of the State, should I be elected, and I would look for my remedy in another direction.

DON'T WANT TO INFRINGE.—The Cincinnati *Gazette* says:—

Since Douglas has copyrighted "Squatter Sovereignty," it may be thought we have no right to comment on it. The rights of authors ought to be respected, and we know of no one on whose rights we have less desire to infringe.

AN OLD STORY.—The same paper says:—

Senator Dougl