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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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Volume XXV.....No. 39

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—COOKE'S ROYAL AMPHITHEATRE—Afternoon and Evening.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—NICK WHIFFLES—BREAK OF DAY BOYS—FRENCH SPY.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway, opposite Bond street.—OLIVER TWIST.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway.—ROMANCE OF A POOR YOUNG MAN.

LAURA KEENE'S THEATRE, 624 Broadway.—JEANIE DEANS.

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—THREE FAST MEN—HOLE IN THE WALL.

BROADWAY BOUDOIR, 444 Broadway.—IRISH DRAGOON—THE YOUNG ACTRESS—IRISH ASSURANCE AND YANKEE MODESTY.

THEATRE FRANCAIS, 585 Broadway.—LES FEMMES TERRIBLES—LE CHAMOINESSE.

BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway.—Afternoon—MAID WITH THE MILKING PAIL—VERMONT WOOL DEALER. Evening—OCTOROON.

BRYANTS' MINSTRELS, Mechanics Hall, 472 Broadway.—BURLESQUES, SONGS, DANCES, &c.—BURLESQUE ITALIAN OPERA.

NIBLO'S SALOON, Broadway.—GEO. CHRISTY'S MINSTRELS IN SONGS, DANCES, BURLESQUES, &c.—SCHNEEKNORKN'S BOY.

COOPER INSTITUTE.—PROF. YOUMAN'S LECTURE ON THE CONNECTION BETWEEN MIND AND MATTER.

New York, Thursday, February 9, 1860.

The News.

By the arrival of the City of Washington, at this port, and the North Briton, at Portland, we have European advices to the 26th ult., five days later than those previously received. The news is important, both politically and commercially.

The British Parliament met on the 24th ult. The speech from the throne alludes to the Italian question, the new commercial policy of the Emperor of the French, the war with China, the San Juan dispute with the United States, the war between Spain and Morocco, and other subjects of moment, but it is particularly decided in favor of the non-intervention of foreign States in the affairs of the Italian peninsula.

A terrific gale had swept the coast of England, causing immense damage to shipping. Brief particulars of disasters to American vessels are given in our telegraphic summary of the news.

Capt. Harrison, commander of the Great Eastern, was drowned in the harbor of Southampton by the upsetting of a boat.

A new commercial treaty between France and England has been signed at Paris. But little is known respecting its provisions.

At London on the 26th ult. consols were quoted at 94¾ a 94⅞ for money, and 94⅝ a 94¾ for account—a decline of ¼ as compared with the rates current on the sailing of the Asia.

The Liverpool cotton market was quiet, but steady, with sales of 24,000 bales during the three days preceding the 25th. Some circulars quote prices easier, while others note a partial decline of one-sixth of a penny. Provisions and breadstuffs had undergone no material change.

We have accounts from Morocco dated at Mogador on the 2d ult. 60,000 men, the pick of the Moorish army, were encamped on the hills beyond Mogador, and ready for action. A courier had arrived, stating that the Moors had taken in all 600 prisoners, and that the Emperor had paid $4 per head for having brought them alive to the capital.

The overland mail arrived at Malloy's station on Tuesday night, with advices from San Francisco to the 16th ult., and from the Sandwich Islands to the 31st December. No change had occurred in the San Francisco markets, and no vessels had arrived from Atlantic ports subsequent to the departure of the previous mail. Among the passengers lost by the wreck of the steamer Northerner, off Cape Mendocino, on the 6th ult., were Mr. Bloomfield, a son of the Bishop of London, and Mr. French, son of Captain T. W. French, of the Forty-second regiment, British army. There was a movement on foot in Sacramento to elect a successor to United States Senator Gwin during the present session of the Legislature, but the Governor disapproved of the project. The news from the Sandwich Islands is unimportant.

The latest advices from Captain Page, commanding the United States Exploring Expedition in the interior of South America, were dated on board of the Argentina, at Comerities, on the 30th of November. The general health of the crew and officers was good. Captain Page states that the explorations had been greatly extended in the head waters of the Paraguay, ascending to Cuiaba, two thousand miles above tide water. The steamer Alpha, one of the vessels of the expedition, was at Argentina, to be put in condition for defence against Indian arrows.

By the arrival of the brig T. B. Wattson, Captain Munday, at this port yesterday, from Porto Cabello, Venezuela, we learn that the country was in a dreadful state. Capt. M. reports that on the day he sailed all the stores at Porto Cabello were ordered to be closed in expectation that Amora and Falcon would make an attack upon the town.

We have Bermuda papers dated on the 17th ult., but later news had already been received.

We have received some additional particulars relative to the capture of the bark Orion, of this port. In the early part of December last, the British war steamer Pluto fell in with a bark showing American colors, but suspecting her of being a slaver, sent a boat on board, and found her to be the Orion, of New York, Captain Morgan, from the coast of Africa, with 1,023 slaves on board, bound to Cuba. When the vessel was brought into port, she had on board eight hundred and seventy-one negroes, of which number sixty-eight were women, one hundred and twenty-seven girls, two hundred and seventy-three men, three hundred and ninety-six boys, and seven, sex unknown. Before the vessel arrived, one hundred and fifty-two had died, which would make the total number taken on board when she left the coast of Africa ten hundred and twenty-three. When the Pluto and the Orion arrived at St. Helena, the British commander surrendered the slaver to the United States steamer Mystic, which will doubtless send her to a port in the United States for trial. The slaves, however, were landed, and would remain under the care of the United States Consul until advised by the Commodore on the station what further disposition to make of them. The Orion is of 449 tons burthen, with one deck, but beams for between decks and was built at Newcastle, Me., in 1846. The Mystic arrived at St. Helena from St. Paul de Loan do on the 14th of December, all well.

The bark Emily, which was brought to this port from the coast of Africa, in charge of United States officers, sailed from Greenpoint for the African coast on Saturday night last. She was towed through Hellgate, and passed through Long Island Sound.

The New York State Agricultural Society met at Albany yesterday, and organized for the coming year by choosing Hon. B. M. Huntington, of Rome, for President. The Treasurer's statement shows a balance of $5,686 on hand. The next annual fair will be held in Elmira.

The news from Washington this morning is interesting. The Senate yesterday resumed the consideration of the Post Office Appropriation bill, the question being on the amendment, proposed by the Finance Committee, abolishing the franking privilege. Considerable time was spent in discussing and voting upon trivial amendments to the proposition, and finally the franking privilege amendment was rejected, but no further action was taken as regards the passage of the bill. The mail contractors sent in a memorial asking for the immediate passage of the bill, omitting the six per cent interest on their claims, looking to future legislation for a settlement. The Printing Committee recommended the printing of ten thousand copies of Majors Mordacai and Delafield's report on the war in the Crimea, but the Senate rejected it by a vote of 25 to 31, and by a large majority refused to reconsider the vote.

The republican members of the House yesterday selected Mr. Defrees, editor of the Indianapolis *Atlas*, as their candidate for Printer. Our Washington correspondent gives a pretty clear insight into the corrupt means by which this nomination was brought about.

In the State Senate yesterday remonstrances were presented against removing the landing places of the Sound steamers, and against assessing damages for the destruction of the Quarantine buildings without a trial first being had. The bill donating $1,000,000 in aid of the Albany and Susquehannah Railroad was passed. An exciting and prolonged executive session was held on the New York appointments. Messrs. Barber, Edward Murray, Hart L. Murray, Jos. Tinkham and Jas. Coulter, appointed Harbor Masters, were confirmed. Mr. Van Valkenburg's nomination, and also that of Mr. Lounsbury, as Port Warden, was laid on the table. In the Assembly Mayor Wood and several other gentlemen were tendered the privilege of the floor. Mr. Varian made a minority report against the Pro Rata Freight bill. The bill to compel the attendance of witnesses before municipal committees was passed. Mr. Milliken's motion to print the testimony before the Pro Rata committee was debated. Among the bills introduced was one abolishing the Board of Health, and creating a sanitary district composed of New York, Kings and Richmond counties. Several other bills relating to New York and Brooklyn were also introduced, as will be seen on reference to our despatches.

The Republican General Committee held a meeting last evening, and among other business transacted adopted a resolution condemning the Republican State Committee for adopting the State Convention plan for selecting delegates to the Chicago Convention, instead of the system of choosing said delegates by districts.

In the Court of Oyer and Terminer yesterday, Moses Stafford, indicted for the murder of an unborn quick child, pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the second degree, and was remanded for sentence. The trial of Henry Loughrane, charged with killing Timothy Mulcahy, was concluded, and the jury rendered a verdict of manslaughter in the third degree.

In the Court of General Sessions yesterday the Grand Jury were sworn in for the present term. Richard A. Eddy, a colored sailor, was convicted of stabbing James Boston with a knife, on the corner of Peck slip and Front street, on the 28th of June last. He was remanded for sentence.

The usual weekly meeting of the Emigration Commissioners took place yesterday. The Secretary read the minutes of a private special meeting of the Board, at which the annual report to be forwarded to the Legislature was submitted and adopted. Nothing concerning the information contained in this report transpired, however. It was announced by Captain Crabtree that something will come up in the Legislature to-day of importance in reference to Quarantine, but no further information on this subject was developed. The letter of Mayor Wood on the subject of licensing runners, and explanatory of his non-attendance at the Board, which has already been published, was read and filed. The emigrants landed here during the week numbered 160. The usual report of the Treasurer was not submitted. The Board have a peculiar method of transacting all their business of the slightest moment in an almost inaudible voice, and they seem desirous of withholding as much as possible of their proceedings from the newspapers.

The receipts of beef cattle at the Washington yard during the past week were largely in excess of the week previous, and prices declined one-half to one cent per pound, ranging from 6c. to 10c., including all kinds. Cows were steady and unchanged. Veals were in fair demand at previous prices. Sheep and lambs were plenty, dull, and 50 cents per head lower. Swine were active, and ½c. per pound higher. The receipts, including those at Bergen Hill, amount to 4,690 beef cattle, 93 cows, 402 veals, 9,292 sheep and lambs, and 3,000 swine.

The sales of cotton yesterday embraced about 2,500 bales, included in which were 1,500 bales in transitu. Lots in store were dull at 11½c. for middling uplands. The flour market was active, and prices of common and medium grades were, in many cases, 5c. per barrel higher. Southern flour was also firmer, with a fair amount of sales, including some purchases for export to the West Indies. Wheat was in fair milling demand, with sales of Milwaukee club at $1 18, and white Canada at $1 40, in store. Corn was in fair request, with moderate sales, at unchanged prices. Pork was firm and active, and in speculative demand, with sales of some 7,500 a 8,000 barrels, including some 4,500 sold for future delivery, sellers' and buyers' option, deliverable in March and during summer, at rates given in another column. Sugars were firm but quiet. About 100 hhds. Cuba sold, in lots, and 200 boxes, at rates given in another place. Coffee was quiet, but firmly held. Freights were steady, with a fair amount of engagements to Liverpool and London.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS.—Whenever an accident of an absorbing character occurs, whether it be the breaking of the Atlantic cable, the burning of a tenement house, or the fall of the Pemberton Mills, we are favored with such an amazing quantity of correspondence suggesting all kinds of measures for prevention and remedy, that the wonder is how any accidents happen at all—there seem to be so many inventions and appliances for avoiding them. Since the fatal conflagration in Elm street we have received some fifty or more letters on various modes of escaping from burning buildings, many of which we have published, and many more remain unused. One writer thinks that no house should be built higher than four stories, or, if they are, that every floor should have an iron gallery in front, each one connecting with the other by means of a hatchway and step ladder. Another suggests that the floor timbers of every house should have a cast-iron shoe at the end where it runs into the brick work, to prevent accidents by fire from imperfect flues. Another, again, inclines to the fire escape principle employed in London, suggesting that the escapes should be chained to every hydrant throughout the city, and the keys deposited at the station houses, engine houses, the house opposite every hydrant, and with the policemen on duty at night; while another proposes to insert iron bars in the front wall of every tenement house, at close intervals, which might serve as step ladders in case of fire. Upon the whole, we have received so many suggestions as to modes of escape, that there seems little room to expect any further disaster like that in Elm street, for which no remedy may be adopted. If such should occur, it will not be for want of fertility in devising the means of preventing it.

The Recent Attack on the President—What Will the House Do?

We reprint in another column the disgraceful and demoralizing speech made by the Clerk of the House of Representatives at the drunken orgie which followed his election on Friday last.

It will be remembered that, in a previous article upon this subject, we pointed out to the House as its duty in the premises the necessity of raising a committee of investigation to take proofs in verification of the report of the speech as made in the HERALD, preliminary to the expulsion of the officer who had been guilty of such an outrageous assault upon the representative of a co-ordinate branch of the government—the chief executive officer of the nation. With a degree of effrontery quite unparalleled in the history of libellers, the Clerk of the House prints our report almost *verbatim et literatim* in his own paper, and prefaces it with his own endorsement as to its correctness. We find the same vulgar attacks upon the President, the same blackguard comments from the foul mouths of the orator's drunken admirers. The President, according to the Clerk of the House, is a despot, a traitor to his pledges, a disgrace to the position he holds, a despicable coward, and much more to the same purpose. All this, in the first place spoken to a ruffianly mob, made up of the offscourings of Washington, and now, after due deliberation, repeated under the authority of the mean and miserable hand, heart, tongue and brain which conceived it.

We think—and we believe every one who has at heart the dignity of the country, the sacred memory of the patriots and sages who spent their blood and treasure freely as water to guarantee free institutions to their descendants for all time, will also think—that the conduct of the person who has been elected Clerk tops the infinite of insult. He has been guilty of a double offence. In the first place he has deliberately disgraced and brought into public derision the body which has just chosen him to the second office in its gift. The House of Representatives, the popular branch of a Congress chosen to represent thirty millions of civilized people, owes, whatever may be its political complexion, a certain degree of respect and consideration to the executive head of the government. It is not Mr. Buchanan who is to be thus considered and respected—it is the President of the United States. When the government becomes so contemptible that it cannot command even external courtesy among its members, the position of the nation is indeed dangerous. Therefore, when we see a person who holds so important an office as that of Clerk of the House using his triumph now, by partisan chicanery, as the text whereon to hang a tirade of vulgar, low, scandalous vituperation against the venerable statesman who has spent his life in the service of his country, and has administered most faithfully the executive duties which the nation called him to perform, we say that it is the Congress and the country, rather than Mr. Buchanan, that have been disgraced by the vile outpourings of the petty spite of a disappointed spoilsman, and that it is the duty of the House to mark in some active and searching way its condemnation of the misconduct of its Clerk. As for his second offence—his ingratitude to his patron—the proper punishment for that is the scorn and contempt of all good and true men.

If this attack upon the President is permitted to go unrebuked it will be a national shame. Think for a moment of the manner in which European diplomats and publicists will gloat over so delightful a specimen of the manners and the morals of the model republic. Fancy the London *Times* asking its readers what they would think of a similar exhibition on the part of the Clerk of the House of Commons, or the Paris *Constitutionnel* transferring the scene to the banks of the Seine and the actors to the Chamber of the Corps Legislatif and *salles* of the Tuileries. Such occurrences would be quite as impossible there as they would have been here in the earlier days of the republic, when, notwithstanding the fact that partisan warfare was more bitterly because more ably conducted than at the present day, the utmost decorum was maintained between the representatives of the several branches of the federal government. The country in those days sent statesmen and gentlemen to Congress. What order of persons have taken their places may be inferred from the recent occurrences at Washington.

The character of the House has been so far deteriorated by the venality and corruption of its members, and the majority are so bound with the shackles of the lobby, and so obedient to the crack of the party whip, that there is but little hope that they will ever make any united effort to purge the House of the unclean beast who has been foisted by intrigues and an unscrupulous use of vile party machinery into the Clerk's chair. Time was when the position of a member of Congress was so far elevated that every man in the House would have risen to vindicate the fame of the republic and the sacred memories that cluster around the Capitol from the presence of the great national libeller. Now, there is, we fear, not one true patriot, not one bold, energetic statesman, not one member of the House who has sufficient pluck to do his duty and move for the removal of the Clerk. The whole duty of a member of Congress now-a-days, according to the indication of recent events at Washington, may be summed up in inciting Pickwickian duelling, talking very big about people who are at a safe distance, carrying pistols into the House and dropping them upon the floor thereof, making ineffectual motions to expel the reporters (who suffer the tortures of the condemned in whipping the wretched trash uttered on the floor into passable English) and libelling women. Such a House deserves such a Clerk, and will, no doubt, endorse his conduct by its silence. Let us see.

PROPOSED AMERICAN INTERVENTION IN THE CHINESE WAR.—The Boston Board of Trade have applied to the New York Chamber of Commerce and to the Philadelphia Board of Trade to join them in a memorial to the federal government to induce it to offer its services as a mediator between China on one side and England and France on the other, so as to prevent a recurrence of hostilities between those Powers, and a useless spilling of human blood. The New York Chamber of Commerce have taken no action as yet, and we have not heard of the Philadelphia Board making any movement in the matter.

What these bodies will do we are not prepared to say; but as it is for the interests of American commerce that there should be peace in China, we should not be surprised if the merchants of New York and Philadelphia would accede to the proposition of "the solid men" of Boston; and as, in a diplomatic sense, it would promote the interests of this country with the Chinese government to interpose in a war for which they cannot have much relish, there can be no doubt that Mr. Buchanan's administration would offer its mediation, if it thought such a movement would be acceptable to England and France. But in view of the extreme probability of the contrary, it is not likely that our government would assume such a delicate position, unless requested to do so by one or other of the belligerent parties.

But should the government at Washington volunteer its good offices, England, we are confident, would not accept the offer, for she has been too badly whipped on the Peiho to become reconciled to China till that disgrace is wiped out by a lesson in the art of war which the Chinese will not soon forget. The pride of our transatlantic cousins demands vengeance and satisfaction, and their interests require it, too; for until the Chinese have received a severe drubbing from John Bull, they will laugh at all his overtures for the establishment of satisfactory commercial relations between the two countries. As it is, the children of "the Central Flowery Land" think they are the superiors of the outside British barbarians, and it will take at least one or two bloody battles to set them right on the subject. Then, perhaps, American mediation might do good.

In the meantime, we would suggest that, as charity begins at home, the Boston merchants would turn their attention to the prevention of the shedding of human blood on American soil. The blood of Americans ought to be more precious in their sight than that of John Chinaman, and the stability of our government ought to claim a little more of their regard than the relations between two European governments and the far distant Chinese. The English have been long, and without avail, making a tremendous fuss about our negroes, which is a matter entirely of our own concern, while the same amount of zeal might accomplish a vast amount of good if applied to the amelioration of the condition of the white race of their own nation. The Bostonians appear to be following their example in getting up an excitement about the shedding of Chinese blood at the other side of the globe. Let them first try their hand in preventing raids into Virginia, and in putting down the rampant treason and fanaticism around them, which, if allowed to go unchecked much longer, must result in the dissolution of the Union and a civil war in which American blood will flow in torrents.

THE HARPER'S FERRY TRIALS—CONVICTION OF STEVENS AND ARGUMENT OF HIS COUNSEL.—In another page we publish an eloquent speech of Mr. Sennott in defence of Stevens, tried at Charlestown for being concerned in the Harper's Ferry treason. Though it is plausible, and even contains much of what is true, it could not save the unfortunate prisoner. Indeed, a portion of it was calculated to do him irreparable damage, by exciting the political prejudices of the jury.

When Mr. Sennott says that the era of fraternal good feeling has passed away, and that brother is quarrelling with brother in these "dis-United" States, and that the chief cause of it all is the professional politician, "the feeblest production of the decay of American statesmanship—a thing that has neither heart nor brain, but only a tongue and a belly," we think he so far speaks the truth. But he does not go to the root of the matter. He assumes that if Garrison had been let alone, and not made a sort of martyr of by being half hanged, the abolition sentiment never would have gained ground in the North. That may be true. But we go a step further back, and say if Garrison had not commenced a crusade against the South he would not have been molested; and though we are opposed to all violence, we think that the sentiment which prompted a Boston mob to lynch Garrison was more creditable to the city than that which afterwards effected the rescue of a fugitive slave out of the hands of the officers of the law and murdered a Marshal of the United States while acting in the discharge of his duty. The feeling which animated the people to put a rope around the neck of Garrison was more patriotic than that which inspired them of late to canonize the traitor John Brown. Had there been no Garrison, there would have been no John Brown and no Aaron Stevens to pay the penalty of the crime to which his teachings incited them. And Garrison and Giddings deserve hanging more than either of these unhappy men.

Mr. Sennott does not class Garrison and Phillips and Howe among the professional politicians, but among his most esteemed friends—most orthodox on slavery; and he claims for them the right to say just what they please against slaveholders, and the right of all to go and hear them. He says that the professional politicians, who are as "numerous and as useless as the thistle and the burr," take advantage of the anti-slavery agitation, and fan the flame for their own base purposes. But if the incendiary fire had not been kindled by Garrison, Phillips, Giddings, and such men, the politicians could not fan it. And is not the fanning of the flame the very thing that his friends Garrison and company most desire? Little they care by what means the conflagration gains headway, if it burns fiercely. It matters not that the politician who throws pitch and turpentine into the fire is "a bankrupt shoemaker, who prefers to swindle and go half starved rather than work and pay his honest debts." He is just the man for them. Mr. Sennott admits that the North has no right to meddle with the institution of slavery in the South, but he says the people of the North have a right to the free enjoyment of another institution of their own—the right of free speech, the right to abuse and denounce slavery and slaveholders to their hearts' content—a right, indeed, which Mr. Sennott is not backward to exercise even in Virginia, where he anathematises "slavery and its abominations," and calls it "the detestable thing." Now, we deny that the people of the North have this right. It is licentiousness, and not liberty. For it is a condition of true freedom that we must not abuse it to the detriment of our fellow citizens. The men of Boston, it is admitted, have nothing to do with Southern slavery. Why, then, do they assail an institution for which they are not responsible, if they desire to maintain good neighborhood? What would people think of the sincerity of the man who, conceding that he has no right to meddle in the domestic affairs of his neighbor, and desires to keep on the best terms with him, yet goes into the street, harangues a crowd and denounces him as a monster, as cruel to his family, and as committing all sorts of abominations in his own house? Clearly he would be pronounced a hypocrite, for he does interfere most effectually in his neighbor's family affairs by stirring up hatred, and perhaps violence, against him. Garrison and his fellow agitators have kept denouncing the South till at last they have not only produced an invasion in Virginia, but raised a great party against the existence of slavery in the Southern States, and therein lies the danger. The rank and file are sincere, though the politicians are not. Mr. Sennott says the North is conservative, but is so busy making money that it has no time to put down the rascally politicians, loafers and rogues, some of whom go to Congress, "not to consult, but to vituperate." The North, therefore, is responsible and highly culpable. But, says Mr. Sennott, it will soon turn a new leaf. We hope it will, for assuredly it is time to look after our own dwellings when our neighbor's house is on fire from the torch of the incendiary.

OUR SHIPPING NEWS AND ITS IMPORTANCE.—There is no journal in the world which gives fuller and more accurate shipping news than the NEW YORK HERALD, or expends a larger amount of money in procuring reliable intelligence of that character from all quarters of the globe. Time was when *Lloyd's List* was the sole oracle and authority upon shipping affairs, and it was referred to in all cases with confidence. When a ship was missing for any length of time, every one looked at *Lloyd's;* but if she was not reported there, they concluded that she was lost to a dead certainty. Owners and insurance companies relied upon it implicitly. Now *Lloyd's List* is in a measure supplanted in England by the London *Shipping Gazette*, a monster paper, nearly as large as the London *Times*, which is entirely devoted to ship news, and is published every day, at the price of $35 a year. But the NEW YORK HERALD has taken the lead of them both. It publishes daily in its two or three columns of small type as much shipping intelligence as the mammoth London *Gazette* has spread over its face in large type, and this only as one department out of many. The HERALD is consulted and relied upon with the fullest confidence by ship owners and insurance companies, and there is not now, perhaps, in the whole world a board of underwriters or an insurance office that does not keep the HERALD on file.

To the ordinary reader it may appear that our shipping news department is only two or three columns of space thrown away; but let them remember that it represents interests, in the value of vessels and cargoes, of from fifty to a hundred millions every day, and every day fresh interests are satisfied. It is a medium of consolation and security to thousands of people—to insurance companies, to shareholders in vessels, to exporters and importers, to wives, fathers, mothers and relatives of crews and passengers. The few words which do not fill half a line, announcing the arrival at a certain port of a certain ship, are a record of the deepest interest to numerous parties whose fortunes may be involved in her safety, and the friends and relatives of from fifty to five hundred people. In like manner the simple words "spoken" in such a latitude and longitude, with reference to a vessel about whose safety the darkest doubts had gathered, are messengers of hope to thousands of aching hearts. The numerous personal applications made by ladies and others at our office for information about missing ships, and the letters we receive from all quarters on the same subject, are curious, and often full of romance; mothers eagerly soliciting intelligence of some bright-haired boy seeking his rugged fortune before the mast; wives, whose hearths are swept to welcome the expected sailor, tearfully inquiring for news of the ship too long due; and others anxiously earnest for the fate of those who have sought for pleasure or for health beyond the sea.

To all these—and their name is legion—the uninteresting looking crowded columns of our ship news department are the most important part of the paper. Thus vast commercial interests, and the dearer interests of affection, are alike subserved by the full, reliable and accurate information which our shipping intelligence conveys every morning from all parts of the world.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—MISS PATTI IN THE "BARBER OF SEVILLE."—The "Barber of Seville," an opera which is not distinguished for its attractive qualities in these latter days, when the public runs rather to Verdi than Rossini, drew a very large audience last night, the house being more numerous and *distingué* than on the first night. The cast of the "Barber" included Miss Patti as Rosina, Brignoli as Almaviva, Ferri as Figaro, Susini as Bartolo, and Amodio as Basilio. It is not our purpose to enter into a detailed criticism of the performance, which was an exceedingly good one. Next to Miss Patti's Rosina, which was sung exquisitely, and acted with the most charming coquetry, and Brignoli's Almaviva, in which *rôle* he displays a wonderful amount of *esprit* for him, Susini's Bartolo attracted the marked attention and applause of the house. The artists throughout were perfectly *en rapport* with the audience, who relished the "Barber" as if it was entirely fresh to them. Such is the power of this charming work when expressed by artists who are equal to the performance of its several *rôles*. The whole performance was received with the greatest favor, and Miss Patti won especial honors in the singing lesson, where she introduced two English songs, much to the gratification of the audience. Such interpolations may offend the purists, but they always delight the popular ear. As half the fun of the "Barber" is lost to those who do not understand Italian, it may be only fair that a little English should be introduced as an offset, and, if we are not mistaken, Miss Patti is sound in her precedents, having the example of Malibran and Sontag. The *vox populi* goes, of course, with the popular favorite. For the *finale* of the "Barber" Signor Muzio has written a charming waltz, which displays, in the most ample way, the vocal wealth and executive brilliancy of our young *prima donna*. She sang the piece exquisitely, and made an appropriate finish to an excellent performance. On Friday, "Der Freischutz" is to be given, with a fine cast and a grand *mise en scène*. The performance is worthy of special attention, as the first of the opera (Italian version) at the Academy.

LITERARY TALENT IN DISTRESS.—An entertainment is to be given at the Spingler Institute on Friday next, in aid of a young Southern authoress, who has been disabled by illness from literary labor. The programme comprises duets and songs, by the Misses Gellie, and dramatic readings by Mrs. E. F. Ellett. The tickets are only fifty cents each, and we trust that the praiseworthy character of the effort will insure for it a liberal support.

PROFESSOR YOUMANS' LECTURES.—This course of lectures, which has attracted so much attention amongst scientific people, will be brought to a close this evening. In his discourse of to-night Professor Youmans will treat of the intimate relations which exist between the realms of mind and matter. Those who have a taste for investigations of this character will do well to go to the Cooper Institute and hear this interesting lecture.

THE ELM STREET CATASTROPHE—BENEFIT AT THE FRENCH THEATRE.—We see that M. Maunstein, the director of the French theatre, has announced a performance by his company for Thursday, the 16th of February, for the benefit of the families of the victims of the Elm street tragedy. It is to be hoped that the patrons of the French drama will second the liberality of the manager in this effort to aid the fund for the relief of the sufferers.

NEWS FROM THE STATE CAPITAL.

The Albany Regency Coquetting with Mayor Wood—Fierce Fight over the Governor's Appointments—State Medical Society in Session—State Agricultural Society—Mayor Wood and Joshua R. Giddings in the Legislative Hall—Pro Rata Again—Tolling Railroad Tonnage—Bills Noticed, &c.

OUR SPECIAL ALBANY DESPATCH.

ALBANY, Feb. 8, 1860.

The National Democratic Convention at Syracuse has set the managers of the democratic Regency fluttering. Cagger, Cassidy & Co. have become all at once alarmed at the strength that Mayor Wood is drawing around him. They see that many persons who have not heretofore attached themselves to either side are now falling in with Wood, and that he is taking with him the true democracy, leaving only the trading and speculating band who are running the Tammany machine and the Albany Regency as a matter of speculation and nothing else. This Albany mutual admiration and confidence band are to-day under great tribulation. The formidable show made by the Wood party has convinced them there is great danger that they will not be allowed an inside view of the Charleston Convention. Dean Richmond has been telegraphed for, who came on in hot haste.

The Regency has been under great travail this afternoon. Attempts have been made to approach Mayor Wood, on the part of Cagger, with a view of a compromise. The only reply that Mr. Wood has given was, that he could not compromise principle. Thus have they become convinced that they have only the office-holders with them, with no one to back them up, and are now seeking protection under the wings of Mr. Wood to prevent being let out on the cold.

The Senate has had a decidedly rich time in executive session over the appointments for Harbor Masters. After fillibustering for some time, they succeeded in confirming R. Murray and Mr. Barber, and then came a long pull and a strong pull upon Van Valkenburg, upon which there was no small amount of speechifying. They finally reached a vote which stood a tie, the Lieut. Governor giving the casting vote turned the scale against this appointment of Weed's. A motion was made to reconsider, which, after some discussion, lies over until the next secret session. Seven republican Senators voted against Van Valkenburg, as follows:—Mann, Hammond, Truman, Lapham, Proter, Hillhouse and P. P. Murphy.

The next struggle was upon Mr. Murray, of Brooklyn. Upon him Mr. Spinola used his usual mode of defeating him by talking in all directions.

The Senators, at seven o'clock, becoming tired and hungry, and there still being no prospect of adjournment, a supply of some four gallons of oysters were sent in to them to stay their appetites. Still the battle raged. Fierce and more fierce was the clash of arms, with but little prospect of triumph on either side before the gray dawn.

The struggle continued until half past ten o'clock, when the doors of the Senate were thrown open for the first time in over ten hours. The result of to-day's labor is the confirmation of all the appointments sent in for Harbor Masters and Port Wardens but Messrs. Van Valkenburg and Lounsbury. Party diet will put them through next week.

This seems to be a day of conventions: the city of Albany has at least her share of them. Last week the anti-slavery band and the Women's Rights advocates held forth in glowing colors. We have now the doctors of the State holding forth in the City Hall under the name of the "State Medical Society," it being their fifty-third annual meeting. The attendance is said to be larger than at any former meeting. They are now considering the health of the citizens of the State, and endeavoring to find some new name to give to the aches and pains of the human frame. Their proceedings thus far have been marked with more practical common sense than is usual with that class of conventions, and should they continue in the course at present marked out, their proceedings will be of some importance. Their session this morning has been an interesting one, and seems to be attracting considerable attention from the Albanians.

The State Agricultural Society met in the Assembly Chamber at twelve o'clock to-day and organized for the coming year. The Treasurer's report was read, showing their finances for the last year to be in the following condition:—

Receipts	$24,410 26
Expenses	18,724 19
Balance on hand	$5,686 07

Elmira was fixed upon as the place for holding the next fair, and Hon. B. N. Huntington, of Rome, Oneida county, elected as President for the coming year.

The society is quite numerously represented here by a solid and substantial looking set of men, who exhibit practical business talent, instead of gas, as is the case with all political conventions, whose members like to talk instead of working.

The House commenced its session this morning at nine o'clock, in order to give the State Agricultural Society the use of the Assembly Chamber at twelve o'clock.

A large number of petitions upon various subjects were presented, a majority being upon the question of pro rata. It is sometimes amusing to see the arrangements entered into to present these petitions, in order to combine certain interests, which is probably never thought of only by those who are in the secret; yet, nevertheless, it has its influence. Let one of the members along the line of the proposed Albany and Susquehanna Railroad offer a pro rata petition, or one for tolling railroads, he is sure to follow it with one for an appropriation for the Albany and Susquehanna road—as much as to intimate to the friends of pro rata, you must not forget us. This course of presenting petitions has led many to believe that an arrangement has been made between the friends of those two projects to help their different schemes.

The privilege of the floor of the House was this morning unanimously granted, upon motion of Mr. Burns, to Mayor Wood during his stay in Albany. Soon after the passage of the resolution Mr. Wood made his appearance within the bar of the House, and was immediately surrounded by friends. In fact, during his stay about the legislative hall, he was as much a lion as if he had been a foreign ambassador.

A resolution was also adopted allowing Hon. Joshua R. Giddings, who is now in Albany, the privilege of the floor. At the time of the passage of this resolution he was in the lobby bobbing around amongst the third house operators, many of whom are anxious to obtain some light in regard to the John Brown raid; but I imagine that they found themselves about as wise when they left as they were before they saw him. This famous representative of the doctrines and dogmas of the Western Reserve is looking remarkably well, and to all appearance could stand many more campaigns in the cause which he has so long advocated on the floor of Congress.

There are also a number of ex-Governors and Senators, as well as other notables, in the city, who, with the enormous lobby, make Albany exceedingly lively, and bring a godsend to the hotels.

Mr. Varian made his minority report from the Select Committee on Pro Rata freight, taking the ground that the passage of a law of that kind would be injurious to the capital invested in the railroads, against the best interests of the State—injurious to the commerce of the Commonwealth, and especially deleterious to the city of New York—in fact, taking about the same ground that has been advanced by Messrs. Thompson and Hawley before the committee. His report is not as lengthy as that of the majority, but presents the arguments against the passage of the bill in a clear style. The report is not signed by Mr. Conckling, although he disagrees with the majority report. Mr. Varian also offered the following resolution:—

Resolved, That the testimony taken before the Select Committee on the Pro Rata Freight bill be printed forthwith, in connection with the report of the minority of said committee, and placed upon the files of members.

Mr. Flagler, Chairman of the Select Committee, opposed the printing of the testimony, stating that there was no testimony that came officially before them; certainly a singular statement, after the committee have spent two weeks' time listening to the arguments offered on both sides of the question.

There seems to be a fear on the part of the friends of pro rata that the testimony and arguments will come to light, so that all the members, and even their constituents, will see it.

Mr. Milliken favored the printing of the testimony, but the subject was laid upon the table until to morrow. Pro Rata being put down as the general order for to-morrow, we may be able to furnish further evidence of the fate of this bill before the Legislature. The friends of the measure take every opportunity to press it before the House, as if fearful that the railroad powers will prevent a vote being taken. We may look for an exciting time upon this question when it fairly comes before the Assembly. There need be no haste as regards the Senate, for I consider its passage there certain. A number of the members who are put down by the railroad parties as against it I am satisfied will dodge the question, thus making the majority for it large.

But very little was done in the Senate this morning before they went into executive session. A number of remonstrances were presented against changing the landing of the Long Island steamboats from the lower part of the city to some point above the foot of Grand street, stating that such change would be hazardous to the best interests of the travelling public, &c.

Senator Connolly made a lengthy report from the committee that has had the subject of tolling railroads under consideration against the passage of a law imposing toll on the tonnage of railroads, upon the ground that it is entirely contrary to the interests of the State; that its consequences will be disastrous; that it will bring us into disrespect and collision with other States, and that it is contrary to the spirit of the age. His report is an able one, but will have but little weight before the Legislature, although he has clearly shown that it would be injudicious to the commerce of New York. As a Senator remarked only yesterday, "the Governor has recommended its passage, and it must, therefore, be adopted by this Legislature." That fact in his mind was argument enough, and overbalanced all other considerations.

The same feeling I find exists to a great extent in the Assembly, or, in other words, a determination to go for it blind, all because it has been recommended by the Executive of the State. The sooner political measures of this kind are brought to a vote, and the members show their hands, the better for the interests of the people.

The executive session to-day, upon the appointments of the Governor, was a lengthy and stormy one, lasting ten hours. The friends of the different appointees were hanging about, anxious to know the fate of their friends. In fact, they have been on the *qui vive* for the last two days, fixing matters up to lighten the labors of the executive session to-day—a task which it seems they found somewhat difficult, notwithstanding the importunities of the Regency in favor of the ratification of the appointees, which the acting Governor ratified at once.

Among the bills noticed in the Senate this morning, was one by Senator Mannierre, relating to the foreclosure and sale of the New York and Erie Railroad:—

Section 1. In the event of a foreclosure and sale of the New