THE GALE OF THURSDAY LAST.

ITS EFFECTS IN THE CITY AND SUBURBS.

THE SUDDEN CHANGE IN TEMPERATURE.

THE EXTENT OF THE STORM.

THE DAMAGE DONE ELSEWHERE

LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY.

Snow and Snow Squalls at the West and North.

THE PECULIARITIES OF THE GALE.

Thermometer Thirty-Seven Degrees Below Zero,

&c., &c., &c.

THE WEATHER THURSDAY MORNING.

February and March have married in haste, and again February has well won the title of the April of winter—like its spring sister, changeable, unreliable and fickle. Thursday morning dawned upon New York with all the pleasant warmth, sweet sunshine, gentle breezes, soft rain, ubiquitous mud and sloppy walking of spring. People came down town without their overcoats, and wore overshoes only to protect their boots from the street mud. Skaters adjourned their trips to the Central Park, as the ice was bad, the walking worse, and the ball down—except upon the railroad cars, where it outrivals the sun, which does set once in a while. By nine o'clock A. M., however, a shower of snow and hail varied the day, and announced the approaching storm. This soon ceased, and spring again smiled and showered; the weather became more and more warm; the streets grew more and more muddy; the tailors sold their winter garments at more immense sacrifices than ever; the city seemed as if the 7th of February had been the 7th of May.

THE GALE IN THE CITY.

Suddenly, between three and four o'clock, a chill breeze whisked away the rain clouds, and, increasing to a gale, swept over the city with an effect indescribable. Chimneys, awnings, signs, sheds, were blown hither and thither; houses exposed to the full force of the storm fairly rocked to and fro with its violence; the ships in the harbor tugged at their anchors like mad; the streets dried up as suddenly as magic; the skating ponds resumed their glistening surfaces. As night came on the gale seemed hourly increasing, and did not entirely cease until sunrise yesterday morning, gradually dying out after one o'clock A. M. The few ladies who had not escaped from the wind at its first commencement zigzagged homeward, like ships tacking to beat up against a heavy breeze. Little boys ran against the wind for sport. Even men were turned and wheeled around by sudden gusts. Ferry boats could scarcely leave their slips, and then stood almost motionless mid stream, unable to make headway. Ships near the coast ran before the wind to gain sea room, and the poor Jacks, almost within sight of the long expected haven, were again all abroad on the waters. From the surface of the waters of our bay and rivers a dense fog arose, and the waters sank two or three feet. The wind blew steadily from the northwest, but in the thickly settled portions of the city, where buildings obstructed it and changed its course, and streets and narrow alleys gave it devious passages, it seemed to blow from all quarters by turns, and sometimes from all points at once. On the outskirts, where the gale had full sweep, it seemed perfectly terrific and hurried everything moveable before it. The banging and thumping of blinds, shutters, signs, doors, gates and awnings seemed like the rattle of incessant musketry. All the while the cold seemed increasing with the wind, and became most intense. People no longer walked, but ran through the streets with the stampings and gesticulations usually performed only on the coldest of winter's days. The thermometers which, at seven A. M., had stood at thirty-six degrees above zero, which, at noon, had risen to forty-eight, sank suddenly and steady to twenty-five, and, still sinking, touched, yesterday, a point eight degrees below zero, and at this present writing has moderated only a few degrees. At Mount St. Vincent the thermometer changed fifty-eight degrees in sixteen hours. At the Central Park the thermometer marked fifteen degrees below zero. The Hudson river was frozen over as low down as Carmansville, and below this point was filled with icebergs. Even the water in the city hydrants was frozen and the Croton had to be thawed out. At daylight yesterday morning an unknown woman, drunk when last seen alive, was found by officer Carey, of the First precinct, in the basement of the house No. 77 Washington street, frozen as stiff as ice, but died, perhaps, from the effects of a fall. In Brooklyn, officer O'Rourke, of the Third precinct, found the body of an aged, respectable looking, well dressed man in the vacant lot corner of Clinton street and Hamilton avenue. The station houses overflowed with lodgers, and in the seven precincts from which returns were received two hundred and five persons found shelter. One can only imagine what the unknown poor must have suffered, but the imagination is terrible enough. How many feeble breaths were whirled away forever with the wild winds; how many weak limbs stiffened forever with the intense cold, no one can tell. In a great city like New York half the suffering, half the distresses, half the deaths, never find their way into print.

A CURIOUS COINCIDENCE.

It is remarkable that just a year ago, upon the 9th and 10th of February last, the gale of the 7th inst. was outdone by a most tremendous storm, which unroofed buildings, injured property, destroyed vessels, caused many accidents to life and limb, and did very great damage. The gale of Thursday, however, though coinciding singularly in the time of its visitation, carried the similarity no farther. Our reporters have been able to find no instances of loss of life, nor of very great damage to property from the wind, except those mentioned above. This gale overturned no houses, but contented itself with burying beneath his load of garbage the driver of a cart on Tenth avenue. Fences and chimneys, not edifices and shipping, suffered this year, and even these suffered comparatively little. Men traversed the streets in fear, however, and the falling of a chimney or two set all pedestrians agog, and caused them to proceed with caution and to keep a sharp lookout for anything from above. Careful elderly gentlemen took the middle of the streets when the vehicles were not too numerous. The wind forced the ladies wherever it pleased. The young men followed the ladies. Omnibus and car drivers grew desperate, and suffered with silent malediction. Everybody concluded that winter had come at last, and no one seemed at all rejoiced by its unexpected arrival. All anticipated great disasters by land and sea, though happily few are reported.

THE EXTENT OF THE GALE.

We have reports by telegraph of the effects of this gale from places as far south as Baltimore, as far west as Buffalo and as far north as Quebec. North and west the gale was accompanied by heavy fall of snow, and still further to the west of Buffalo the snow fell with but little wind. The reports received, therefore, show the gale to have raged from about thirty-nine to forty-seven degrees north latitude, and from sixty nine to seventy-nine degrees longitude west, from Greedwich—giving an area of about two hundred and sixteen thousand square miles, or say, in round numbers, of about two hundred and fifty thousand. Beyond the parallelogram formed by these degrees of latitude and longitude we hear nothing of extraordinary winds. At Grand Haven, Michigan, the wind, yesterday, was light; the thermometer five degrees below zero. At Kalamazoo the thermometer was at the same point, with no wind. At Detroit, ten degrees below; wind very light. At Collingwood, eleven degrees below; the snow eight feet deep and heavy drifts. At Chicago, the thermometer eighteen degrees above zero. At Milwaukee, the weather mild and pleasant. At Rock Island, the thermometer four degrees above zero and slight snow. At none of these places is mention made of extraordinary cold or wind, and is all the wind is reported east by south-east yesterday. These places, therefore, and the whole country west of the longitude of Buffalo and south of the latitude of Baltimore would seem to have been comparatively unaffected by the storm.

THE GALE AT SEA.

How far at sea the effects of the gale were felt we are, of course, unable at present to state, and of how much damage was done to shipping by this terrible storm, which must have been doubly terrible when howling over the open sea, we are equally ignorant. The pilot boat George Steers, however, reports the weather for the last two days as follows:—Thursday, Feb. 7, a strong gale from south southwest. At three P. M. the wind hauled west northwest, with a heavy snow squall. At four P. M. the wind was blowing a perfect hurricane from the northwest. At six P. M. we were ship, heading west southwest; were obliged to carry a heavy press of canvass to keep under the land. The boat was laboring heavily, and the sea made a clean breach fore and aft, the wind still blowing a terrific gale. At nine o'clock came to anchor fifteen miles north of Barnegat, in four fathoms water, the boat riding heavily at anchor. Yesterday morning the weather was more moderate, but intensely cold. Hove anchor and made sail for New York, the wind west by northwest. Spoke the schooner T. H. Sears, from Virginia, bound for New Haven. She reported that on Thursday night she lost her foresail and one anchor. She was taken in tow by a steamtug and attempted to proceed to Sandy Hook, but was obliged to let go the tug. The vessel was badly iced up. Further reports from sea will probably be obtained to-day. Happily the wind blew from and not upon the coast.

THE STORM ELSEWHERE.

From the account above given, and from our despatches from various points, the storm seems to have begun at the southwest, and then veered suddenly to the northwest. Within the parallelogram we have indicated the wind and the cold—especially the latter—were extraordinary. At Baltimore, the farthest point South yet heard from, the gale began at one o'clock P. M. on Thursday and continued with unabated force all night. Some thirty houses were unroofed, trees were uprooted, telegraph lines thrown down and walls and chimneys blown over. In the harbor the tide lowered about three feet. At Philadelphia the gale was equally terrific, and the telegraph wires prostrated. In New Jersey the cold was intense and the wind very violent. Two persons were frozen to death at Newark. At Albany the wind blew a hurricane and snow fell heavily. At Boston the thermometer, at two o'clock P. M., stood at forty-three degrees above zero, with rain. Early in the evening the thermometer fell, and during the night snow squalls and a violent northwest gale raged; the mercury seven degrees below zero. At Rochester a snow storm began on Wednesday and continued all day Thursday, with a heavy gale, which prevailed along Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence river. The trains upon the Central road were detained by the snow drifts. At Oswego the thermometer marked four degrees below zero; at Watertown, ten; at Ogdensburg, sixteen—lower than it has marked before this winter. At Buffalo a severe snow storm, with a heavy gale from the northeast, prevailed all day. At Toronto the heaviest snow storm of the season occurred. All the railroads were blocked up. The Grand Trunk trains did not attempt to start, for the snow drifted upon the tracks faster than it could be removed. At Montreal the snow blockaded the railroads, and no mails left on Thursday. These points mark the limits of the range of excessive cold and wind, and indicate the extent of its ravages.

THE COLD YESTERDAY.

In this city yesterday the thermometer varied about sixteen degrees. The following table exhibits the fluctuations:—

One o'clock A. M.	10 degrees below zero.	
Three o'clock A. M.	5 do.	do.
Seven o'clock A. M.	2 do.	do.
Twelve o'clock M.	11 degrees above zero.	
Five o'clock P. M.	10 do.	do.
Seven o'clock P. M.	16 do.	do.

At Cambridge yesterday morning the thermometer marked nineteen degrees below zero; at Boston, fourteen below; at Concord, Laconia and Holderness, N. H., from twenty to thirty-five degrees below; at Hanover, N. H., from thirty-seven to thirty-two below; at Stockbridge, thirty-two below. At Montreal the day was the coldest of the season—the thermometer thirty-two degrees below zero. At Toronto the railroads were still blockaded by snow, which filled in as fast as it was cleared out. The Grand Trunk road did not attempt to run trains; and on the Great Western and Northern roads, although the trains started they could not get through. At Troy the thermometer was at twenty five degrees below zero yesterday morning; at Saratoga, thirty below; at Buffalo, eight below; at Utica, thirty-five below, with westerly winds; at Norwich, twenty degrees below.

As will be observable, if these reports be compared with those from the extreme West, given in the former part of this article, the extreme cold of yesterday was confined to the same localities as the cold and wind of Thursday. Everywhere, these are regarded as the coldest days of the season. The extraordinary variations in the temperature, the storm of snow and wind, the peculiarities which we have indicated, and the extent of the cold and gale mark the weather of the past two days as unique, and afford plenty of matter for study among meteorologists.

DEATHS FROM THE COLD.

About six o'clock yesterday morning, as policeman Carey was passing along Washington street, he discovered the dead body of a woman lying at the basement steps of No. 77. Deceased was quite dead and frozen stiff with the cold. The body was removed to the station house in Broad street, and efforts made to ascertain the name of deceased, but without success. Coroner Jackman held an inquest upon the body, when the jury rendered a verdict of "Death from cold and exposure." Deceased was about thirty-five years of age, and appeared to be a native of Ireland; she had blue eyes, light complexion and was about five feet four inches in height.

During the terrible frost of Thursday night and yesterday morning an unknown man was frozen to death in Brooklyn. He was found on an open lot in Clinton street, corner of Hamilton avenue, at six o'clock in the morning, by which time he had been long beyond the reach of human aid. The deceased was apparently about fifty-five years of age, and wore a brown beaver overcoat, blue freck undercoat and brown cloth vest. On his person was found a patent lever silver watch, with a long square link watch chain attached and, a door key. The watch was marked "Gottenburg, No. 32, Jos. H. Moore." It is supposed by some persons that the unfortunate man had found his way to the vacant lot while in a state of intoxication, and being unable to go farther lay down and died there, though it is quite possible that he might have been overtaken with a fit of epilepsy or apoplexy. There were no marks of violence on the body to induce the supposition of foul play. Coroner Horton held an inquest on the body yesterday, when a verdict of "Frozen to death" was returned.

THE WEATHER THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

BOSTON, Feb. 8, 1861.

Thermometer at Cambridge Observatory this morning 19 deg. below zero.

In Boston, by the graduated thermometer, 14 deg. below. The severest cold known here for many years.

At Concord, Laconia and Holderness, N. H., the cold varied from 20 to 35 deg. below zero, with a violent gale from the northwest.

At two o'clock yesterday afternoon the thermometer stood at 43 deg., with rain; early in the evening we had snow squalls, and a violent northwest gale during the night; at one o'clock in the morning the thermometer stood at 7 deg. below zero, at sunrise 18 deg. below zero; weather clear.

HANOVER, N. H., Feb. 8, 1861.

At one o'clock yesterday afternoon the thermometer stood at 37 deg. above zero; at seven o'clock this morning 32 deg. below zero.

Reports from various other localities show also an extraordinary change in the temperature of the last twenty-four hours, with extreme cold weather this morning.

STOCKBRIDGE, Feb. 8, 1861.

The mercury this morning was 32 deg. below zero; the snow very deep and badly drifted.

MONTREAL, Feb. 8, 1861.

This morning was the coldest of the season. Thermometer 32 deg. below zero.

TROY, Feb. 8, 1861.

At Whitehall, Fort Edwards and Saratoga, at seven o'clock this morning, the thermometer stood at 30 deg. below zero; at Troy, 25 deg. below zero at seven o'clock.

BUFFALO, Feb. 8, 1861.

The thermometer at six A. M. this morning was 8 deg. below and at noon 1 deg. above zero.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 8, 1861.

Weather very cold here. Wind northwest.

TORONTO, Feb. 8, 1861.

The railroads are still blockaded by snow in drifts, and it fills in as rapidly as it is cleared out. The Grand Trunk Railroad are not attempting to run trains either east or west; the Great Western and Northern are trying to run their trains, but it is doubtful whether they get through.

The New Postmaster General.

The appointment of Hon. Horatio King to the vacant Postmaster Generalship appears to have been well received in all quarters.

Since the decease of Major Hobbie, so long and favorably known in connection with the postal service, no man in that department appears to have been more conspicuous and useful or more relied on in the management of the department than Mr. King. He was appointed to a clerkship by the late Hon. J. M. Niles, while at the head of the department, in 1839, if we mistake not, and consequently his official relations to the postal service of the country cover a period of some twenty-two years. Previous to his appointment as First Assistant Postmaster General, to succeed Major Hobbie, in 1852, in addition to his other duties in the Contract Bureau, he had charge of, and made himself thoroughly conversant with, the foreign postal service of this and other governments; and his knowledge and great familiarity with that complicated branch of the service were subsequently made of much practical value to the Department in the extension and formation of foreign treaties, and the arrangement of the details of that important business generally.

As the head of the Appointment Office, Mr. King has exhibited administrative abilities of no ordinary grade. It is known to be one of the most delicate, difficult and responsible positions under the government, and yet the late incumbent, so far as we are informed, has given very general satisfaction to all parties, as well as to the President and the Postmaster General.

His promotion to the highest place in the department has been well earned.

Official Despatch to General Paez, Recalling Him to Venezuela.

SECRETARYSHIP OF FOREIGN RELATIONS,
CARACAS, Jan. 16, 1861.

To General JOSE ANTONIO PAEZ, Commander-in-Chief, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Venezuela to the United States of America:—

MOST EXCELLENT SIR—The executive power, having reason to hope that the international question raised in Venezuela by Mr. Edward Romes, Spanish Charge de Affairs, will be arranged in Madrid, by our Minister Plenipotentiary, Mr. Fermin Toro, in a satisfactory manner, and that the enlightened Spanish Cabinet will do justice to the republic, without the necessity of friendly hints or the good offices of other Powers, but by applying, by itself and of its own accord, to this grave subject, the principles of rectitude and high minded dealing which mark its policy, your Excellency will discover that the principal motive has disappeared which induced the Executive in past times to accredit a legation near the government of the United States, entrusting it to the zeal and intelligence of your Excellency, with the object of arousing the benevolence and humane sentiments of friendly nations, in order to avert the disasters of a war which Mr. Romes represented to us as imminent and inevitable. For these reasons, and for the more powerful one that the country requires at this moment within her borders the important services of your Excellency, the President of the republic, who ardently desires the return of your Excellency to our common country, resolved to obviate the difficulty which the change of Minister Plenipotentiary to Washington might present, and has directed me to forward to your Excellency your letter of withdrawal, which I have the honor to do in the customary form, expressing to you at the same time his excellency's satisfaction at the wise and prudent manner which has marked the conduct of your Excellency while in that office.

PEDRO DE LAS CASAS.

For his Excellency the President.

SKATING IN CENTRAL PARK.

Splendid Skating—Weather too Cold for the Sport—Eleven Thousand Skaters on the Pond—The Imperial Skating Party in Paris,

&c., &c., &c.

The "ball was up" again yesterday, and our citizens took advantage of the ice to have a "little" skating, for so bitter cold was the wind that even the tougher and sterner sex could not resist its influences and had to "beat a retreat" before they had been on the pond an hour. There were a few upon whom the cold had less power, or who did not care so much for it, and they stayed throughout the day and evening. But these were good skaters, whose active motions kept their blood in circulation. There were very few spectators to be seen loitering on the banks, walks or ice, and those who did not skate had to keep up an active run or else freeze. Usually there are many lady gazers, but yesterday there were none. Talking about freezing, it was quite a sight to behold the black and ruddy beards of the men assume a whitish gray appearance, as if with premature old age, as soon as they had walked a few yards from the cars. The policemen, desirous of keeping as warm as possible, put on a covering to their caps, with lappets for the ears, neck and chin, giving them quite a Crimean appearance. The lady skaters were well wrapped in furs and woollens, and moved about with more than usual energy. So cold was it that the bottled beer, cider, soda, &c., in the tents, congealed and burst its bonds. At the upper end of the Park the thermometer marked ten degrees below zero at six o'clock A. M.

The wind of the day before had been trying to have a little effect on the tents, breaking the rafters of Waterman's saloon and bursting open the door of Platt's ladies' booth. It was wonderful that the whole of them had not been levelled to the ground, for it blew in that quarter both "stiff and strong." It was about the same time last year when four of these kind of tents were completely ruined by the wind, but doubtless those of the present season have been built stronger. But "it is an ill wind that blows no one good," and so it appeared yesterday, for the ladies would stand steady on their skates and allow the rude pushes of Boreas to force them along, as it does a ship, the spreading garments answering the place of the sails. Again, two masculine skaters would place themselves each at the end of a shawl, and stretching it, let it fill with the breeze, the momentum given thereby being enough to carry them along without any effort of their own.

Among the lady skaters have lately appeared some who have determined to throw aside the old fashioned long skirts, so dangerous to the lovers of this sport. Two or three have adopted the Polish costume, with short, blue skirts, fur trimmed basques and hats, and tight fitting ancle boots, trimmed also with fur. Others have had a semi-Zouave costume, with a short skirt of a bright red, and pantalets of the same ruddy hue, fastened tightly around the ancle; the basque and hat both trimmed with fur, and neatly fitting skating boots. These are improvements, picturesque and apparently comfortable.

Among the new methods of skating—if it may be so called—was one of a person lying on his back on a board, and a second genius taking hold of the prostrated party's heels and pushing him along. Now this is a funny mode of procedure, but as the police did not like the aspect of affairs in general they put a stop to it; although, judging from the crowd who followed the novel skater, it was quite an excitement.

There have been recently a large number of improvements in skates introduced on our popular Park, so numerous as to defy description individually. The last one is called the Arctic skate. This has a sole of brass, struck out to the shape of the foot with a die. The straps are fastened to a rod, which is revolved by an endless screw working on a gear, the motive power being given thereto by a thumb key. These straps, when adjusted, cannot slip out of place, although no buckles are used or required. There is no heel screw needed, and that nuisance is removed. A man with his gloves on can put on his own skate in a few moments. This is the invention of a Yankee—of course.

The pond was expected to be flooded last night, the Croton Board having granted the Park authorities permission to use the water of the receiving reservoir for an experiment—Mr. Ellis, the keeper, gauging the quantity of water used. Should the flooding not require too much of the limpid element, we are informed no obstacles will be placed in the way of the use of the Croton in future. The hydrants were, therefore, all dug out from the snow. They are sixteen in number around the pond, and a triple one in the centre. It is supposed that the ice can be flooded in a little over fifteen minutes.

The official returns yesterday were:—Pedestrians, 10,560; vehicles, 423; equestrians, 19. Of the pedestrians the surplus over the thousands only could be reckoned as females.

On the curling pond five rinks were yesterday played between the clubs merely for practice. To-day the Caledonia Club will play a point game for their local medal.

The Skating Party of the French Imperial Family.

[From the Paris Correspondence of the London News.]

PARIS, Jan. 19, 1861.

Last night I had the luck to be present at a grand court skating match by torchlight. In Paris the streets were muddy; it was supposed that a decided thaw had set in, the ice on the lake in the Bois de Boulogne was pronounced unsafe—it was, as I ascertained myself, watery on the surface, and not a soul was to be seen upon it. But beyond the Longchamps race course, and on the banks of the Seine, near M. de Rothschild's splendid villa, and just opposite Suresne, there is a meadow studded with pretty clumps of high trees, which was overflowed during the late floods, and which, although the thermometer had risen to a shade above zero, still presented a smooth coating of solid ice, there being scarcely any water underneath. At this spot the Emperor, with as much secrecy as possible, had made a rendezvous for ten o'clock at night. The great Godillot, undertaker of public rejoicings, hung the branches of the trees with hundreds of Chinese lanterns, and serving men, as numerous as those peasants who erst walked all night long up and down the ponds about the royal palaces to prevent the frogs from waking the kings of France, promenaded the frozen meadow with lanterns fixed on their heads. Besides this constant illumination, there was an intermittent succession of Bengal fire and fizzing torches which lighted up the scene *a giorno*. A body of men in white blouses—a special ice police—formed a cordon round the field of operations, and kept off those who were uninvited; but the crowd of spectators, though considerable, consisted mainly of the inhabitants of St. Cloud, Suresne and the neighboring villages. The population of Paris knew nothing of the *fete*, and up to this hour neither the *Moniteur* nor any other journal has said a word about it. As soon as the Emperor and the court arrived, the sport commenced in a very business like style. The Empress got into a sledge, and M. Hartogs, a German gentleman, whose proficiency as a skater attracted the imperial notice two years ago, and who is now called at court the Emperor's *Aid-de-camp de glace*, had the honor of pushing her Majesty on the ice. He took her along at railroad speed, and was out of sight of shore in less than a minute. The emperor then put on his skates, and conducted the sledge of a lady whose name I could not learn. The Countess de Morny, enveloped in velvet and white furs, essayed her prowess, but was supported by two gentlemen, who gave her a hand on each side. The Princess Poniatowski went along very well by herself. In a short space of time the ice was thickly studded with a host of chamberlains, generals, aides-de-camp, and even judges who had come with the court party to join in the fashionable amusement of the hour. The notion of coming to skate in a thaw was highly approved of, for the night was by no means cold. The Emperor and Empress remained on the ice till half-past eleven.

This afternoon, the frost in the meantime having returned with considerable intensity, the sport was resumed by the imperial party at the same spot. M. Hartogs gave the Empress a promenade in a beautiful sledge, which was sent for by telegraph from Germany, and only arrived this morning. Afterwards her Majesty ventured to skate, but only with the assistance of two gentlemen. She is not at her ease upon the ice, and, considering that she comes from sunny Spain, this is not to be wondered at. The Emperor is a very good skater. He does not attempt any *tours de force*, but he is perfectly master of his movements. His wont is to go along rather slowly, and he stops frequently to contemplate the animated scene around him. Not the least etiquette is observed on the ice. No clear space is kept about the Emperor or Empress. They go about just like anybody else, and to-day, unlike last evening, everybody without exception was allowed to skate at the same time with them. The Emperor had nothing whatever but his own adroitness to prevent him from being knocked over by the first tyro in the sport whose skates might run away with him. It was an interesting sight to see the master of so many legions, the mighty potentate upon whose mysterious breath the fate of so many nations hangs, slipping about unpretentiously on the ice, no squire or even servant following him, and apparently as much on an equality with the people about him as a carter is with a ploughman on an English farmyard pond. Once a young man, who saw the Emperor skating slowly along the middle of the lake, steered almost indiscreetly close to him and gave him the go by, with the evident intention of getting credit with the spectators for being the best skater. The Emperor then, without any apparent effort, increased his speed, gracefully distanced his opponent by a few yards, and, contented with his victory, resumed the steady pace which, as I said before, he seems to affect. The frost is severe to-night, and should it continue the rage for skating will attain extraordinary proportions. Happy the amateur who has a good pair of skates, for the manufacturers cannot make them fast enough. The lake in the Bois de Boulogne is again in capital order.

Surrogate's Office.

Before Edward C. West, Surrogate.

WILL OF REV. PETER J. VAN PELT.

This will has been admitted to probate. The testator bequeaths the bulk of a considerable real and personal estate to his relatives, and then gives a bequest of $500 to the Treasurer of the General Synod for the benefit of the Theological school of the Reformed Protestant Dutch church in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

The wills of Ann P. Neschold, Vincent Pappi and John Fortune have also been admitted, but they do not contain any provisions of public interest.

WILL OF MRS. BLANKMAN.

This case was on yesterday. Two witnesses, Messrs. Baker and Freeland, were examined for the contestants as to the genuiness of the handwriting of Mr. Maillard, one of the attesting witnesses to the will. One of them testified that Maillard never made a "flourish" of the pen with his autograph like the one attached to the will. The proponent's counsel, however, subsequently produced several signatures with a "flourish" appended to them, the genuiness of which the same witness admitted. This was the only point of any interest or moment elicited during the day, though the case occupied the whole attention of the Court till an advanced hour in the afternoon.

Cruise of the United States Steamer Brooklyn.

THE VOYAGE FROM HAMPTON ROADS TO KEY WEST—MISSION AND DESTINATION OF THE BROOKLYN—THE REINFORCEMENTS FOR FORT PICKENS—MOVEMENTS OF THE MACEDONIAN AND CRUSADER.

UNITED STATES STEAMER BROOKLYN,
KEY WEST, Jan. 31, 1861.

I hasten to take advantage of the departure of the United States steamer Mohawk, which leaves here to-day for the Brooklyn Navy Yard, to transmit you a few lines in relation to the movements of this will-o-wisp vessel.

On the morning of the 25th inst. we left Hampton Roads in a state of the utmost confusion and excitement, with troops and several pieces of heavy artillery, for the purpose of reinforcing Fort Pickens at Pensacola. A heavy gale from the southwest met us when out but a single day, and continued nearly three days without the least cessation, which very materially retarded our progress. We arrived last night, anchored off the lighthouse, and this morning steamed up to the government wharf, where we are now lying.

Our object in stopping here is to coal ship, which, at the moment of writing, is rapidly proceeding with. We will have accomplished this very dirty job about midnight, after which we again "rap" anchor, heading for Pensacola via Tortugas. At the latter place it is our intention to land several pieces of the heavy artillery taken on board at the Roads, for the troops stationed there.

The troops destined for Fort Pickens are a lot of brave looking fellows, and in number amount to a very respectable garrison themselves.

Although considerable excitement exists in Florida, and particularly in Pensacola, relative to the reinforcement of the forts there, we do not anticipate any serious trouble. As soon as we succeed in landing these troops we are to join the Gulf fleet recently ordered to that place, and, acting in concert with them, it is whispered that we will retake the Navy Yard and other government property now in the hands of the Floridians in that section. I have been informed that very many of the citizens there strongly condemn the action of the people in seizing this property, and they do not hesitate to publicly declare that it was one of the most high-handed outrages on record, and should only be viewed with ineffable scorn by all honest men.

The sloop-of war Macedonian will join us at Pensacola; this can certainly be relied upon, notwithstanding the various newspaper rumors to the contrary.

Since the tempestuous gale alluded to we have had the most lovely weather, the atmosphere being so genial as to allow "all hands" to wear thin clothes and straw hats; in this we present, in all probability, a very different aspect from you, with your overcoats, fur caps, &c.

This place is remarkably quiet. The stars and stripes float solemnly and proudly over the fort, where may they forever wave.

The United States steamer Crusader is here, but will leave for Havana in a day or two. We shall arrive at Pensacola on Sunday next, and from that place you may expect to hear from me again.

Grand Exhibition Drill and Ball of the Brooklyn Zouaves.

The first annual ball of Company B, Thirteenth regiment—Brooklyn Zouaves—Captain Horace A. Sprague, took place on Thursday night, at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. Company B was organized by its present commander about five months since, shortly after the visit and astonishing exhibitions of the Chicago Zouaves in this city and vicinity, with a view to redeem the good name of New York State troops for discipline, which had been so dexterously but temporarily taken from them by the Chicagorians. How far the object of the organization had been carried out was fully demonstrated last night by the grand exhibition drill of the Brooklynites. The first part of the evening was devoted to the disciples of Terpsichore, who was represented by an array of the beaux and ladies of Brooklyn. For this purpose the stage and parquet of the Academy was floored over, presenting a large and smooth area for the dancers. The stage portion of the house was artistically arranged, so as to represent a Grecian state tent; the boxes and upper tier of the house were occupied by spectators. The National Guard band, under Director C. S. Graffula, furnished the music. The whole house was brilliantly illuminated, and the arrangements were of the most perfect character. The great feature of the occasion, however, was the company exhibition drill, which did not commence until near midnight. At that time the company emerged from an ante-room, were the staff armed *cap-a-pie* in their gray regimental uniforms, and carrying their burnished muskets, fixed bayonets, formed in two ranks, according to Scott's tactics, and marching in common time. The company was halted near the boxes, extending their front across the stage, in a position affording all present to have an unobstructed view of the performances. The company were first drilled in the manual of arms, loading by detail, charging bayonets and various movements in the school of the soldier, &c. The company was then exercised in the drill by the tap of the drum, the silent drill, formation in three ranks and the firing in that order—the front rank kneeling—all of which were executed in excellent time and almost faultless precision. The company then marched off the stage, after the announcement that they would return in a short time in the zouave uniform. This was succeeded by a waltz or polka redowa, after which the company marched into the body of the house, in quick time and in full Zouave costume. This consists in a scarlet fez cap, with a long, dark blue tassel, dark blue poncho jacket trimmed with yellow braid; mixed gray cloth undershirts, trimmed with fancy braid; scarlet oose pants, supported by blue, wide merino sashes, while leather leggins conceal the lower portions of the pants. The company were first exercised in the quick and double quick steps, making the circuit of the floor several times and executing the wheelings in excellent order, considering the space in which the drill was confined. They were then drilled in Hardee's light infantry tactics in open ranks, in close order, in the loadings and firings by company, rallying by groups of five, rallying on the reserve, firing lying, kneeling and standing, and exercise in the bayonet drill, and closing the exhibition—which occupied one hour and a half—by rallying into a pyramidical form around the waving American flag, while the band played the air of the "Star Spangled Banner." The drill was even superior to what was anticipated by the company's most sanguine friends, and by many pronounced equal to that of the famous Chicago Zouaves. Among the prominent military men present, some of whom were in full uniform, were Major General Duryee and Staff, ex-Col. Duryee, of the Seventh regiment; Col. Le Gal and Staff, of the Fifty-fifth regiment; Lieut. Col. Waterbury, of the Eighth regiment; Major Alexander S. Shaler, of the Seventh regiment; Captains William Atterbury, of the Ninth; W. P. Bensel, of the Seventh; Captain Moore, of the Eighth; Major Buckingham, of the Seventy-first; Adjutant Prime, of the Seventy-first; Capt. Morgan, of the Thirteenth; Lieut. Farnham, of the Seventh; Lieut. Johnson, of the Eighth regiments.

Company B is officered by Capt. Sprague and Lieutenants Jos. W. Hayes and W. Augustus McKee, all of them accomplished officers. The *materiel* of the company is from the wealthy and oldest families in the City of Churches.

After the drill Capt. Sprague was besieged by delegations of military men, who begged him to give a public exhibition at the Fashion Course, the Academy of Music or some other public place, when those who desire to witness the peers of the Chicago Zouaves may be accommodated. In connection with the exhibition of the Brooklyn Zouaves, and comparing their merits with those of the Chicago Zouaves, it is but fair to state that before the latter commenced their starring tour last summer they underwent three hundred drills, while the former have had but seventeen drills before their exhibition.

Military Intelligence.

CELEBRATION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH REGIMENT N. Y. S. M.,
NATIONAL GUARD, NEW YORK, Feb. 4, 1861.

GENERAL ORDER, NO. 1.

The regiment will parade, in full uniform, with overcoat and knapsack, on Friday, 22d instant, to commemorate the birth of our beloved Washington.

Line will be formed in Lafayette place, right on Fourth street, at two o'clock P. M.

Field and staff to report to the Colonel at his quarters (dismounted), at a quarter to two o'clock.

Companies must be ready, upon this and all future parades, to leave the armory promptly at twenty minutes before the hour named for the regimental formation. The companies comprising the right wing will go to the parade ground by the way of Fourth street, and the left wing by the way of Astor place.

Elections—Emmons Clark, Captain Company B, vice Shaler, promoted. Noah L. Farnham, First Lieutenant Company B, vice Clark, promoted. Edward Bernard, Second Lieutenant Company B, vice Farnham, promoted.

Resignation—James W. Hewitt, Company A.

By order of Col. MARSHALL LEFFERTS.

J. H. LIEBENAU, Adjutant.

NATIONAL CADETS.

SIXTY-NINTH REGIMENT, N. Y. S. M.,
HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK, Feb. 6, 1861.

GENERAL ORDERS NO. 5.

This regiment will parade, fully uniformed, armed and equipped (with overcoats), on Friday, the 22d inst., to celebrate the birthday of the immortal Washington, and will assemble at the Division Armory, corner of Elm and White streets, at half-past two o'clock P. M. precisely.

Field and staff will report (dismounted) to the Commandant, at the Division Armory, at a quarter past two o'clock P. M.

Non-commissioned staff, band and drum corps, will report to the Adjutant at the same time and place.

The troop will report, fully mounted, at the corner of Elm and White streets, at half past two o'clock P. M.

Commandants of companies will make returns within ten days after the parade.

A Court of Appeals will be held for the trial of delinquents, at the Division Armory, on Tuesday, the 2nd day of March next, at half-past seven o'clock P. M.

By order of Lieutenant Colonel Robert Nugent, commanding Sixty-ninth regiment.

JOHN McKEON, Adjutant.

Supreme Court of the United States.

FEB. 6.—No. 60. *William Wiggins et al., complainants, vs. John B. Gray et al.*—This cause was argued by Mr. Cushing and Mr. R. J. Walker for the respondents, and submitted on a printed argument by Mr. Bayard and Mr. Collier for the complainants.

No. 70. *The Union Steamship Company of Philadelphia, claimants and owners of the steamship Pennsylvania, her tackle, &c., appellants, vs. the New York and Virginia Steamship Company.*—This cause was argued by Mr. Watson for the appellees.

THE LATE POST OFFICE DEFALCATION.

United States District Court.

Before Hon. Judge Betts.

FOURTH DAY.

FEB. 8.—*The United States vs. George Law and Gustavus A. Conover.*—The proceedings this day were commenced by the District Attorney resuming the reading of the depositions of Horatio King, after which the deposition of Mr. Zebellee, Third Assistant Postmaster at Washington, was read, and also a *fac simile* account from the books at Washington of the account with the New York Post Office during the time Mr. Fowler held office, and containing the amount of deposits made by Mr. Fowler during his term of office. He also testified that the postmasters at Boston, Philadelphia, Charleston, New York, New Orleans and St. Louis were the only postmasters who were required to make weekly deposits of their net revenue, and also that instances had frequently occurred of postmasters requesting that the deposits made during one quarter be applied to the liquidation of balances due on the preceding quarter. The deposition named several postmasters who had made the request, among whom was the Hon. J. A. Dix, Postmaster of New York, who requested of the Department that certain deposits made by him might be applied to liquidate balances due preceding months. During the reading of the deposition,

Mr. O'Conor remarked that, from looking over the accounts, it appeared that General Dix had a very queer way of paying in too much. He made the government a defaulter to him.

The deposition of Mr. Thomas M. Tate, Auditor of the Treasury for the Post Office Department, was then read. It gave a description of the duties of his office and the manner in which the accounts are transacted between the department and the New York Post Office. Mr. Tate also deposes that at the time of Mr. Fowler's re-appointment he was not aware of the state of the accounts between the New York Post Office and the department.

After some further documentary evidence the defence closed.

Cornelius Wendell examined by Mr. O'Connor—I reside in Washington city; I am well acquainted with the building occupied by what is called the Treasury Department, and also the building known as the Post Office Department. The buildings are distant about a third of a mile; as far as mere physical position and relation goes, the Auditor's apartments are in close proximity to the Postmaster General's office; I know Mr. R. J. Nevens who was formerly attached to the Post Office Department; he now resides in New York and is engaged in the Custom House, as I am informed; he was formerly confidential clerk of Postmaster Brown; I last saw him in Washington, on Friday last; I do not know that he had any business there.

Q. Have you any knowledge why he was absent from New York?

A. Only from his own declaration, sir.

Q. Were you requested by him not to state where he was? Question objected to.

Mr. O'Conor—The reason for offering this testimony, sir, is this: There has been specific evidence given of the death of all those people who were officially recognized as the heads of the Post Office Department. We put off this case once in order to have Mr. Nevens present. We then furnished ample evidence why we sought for him; but it was then said he was sick and that he could not respond. He is a resident of New York, and we had no reason to suppose