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JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Fourteenth street.—ITALIAN OPERA.—UN BALLO IN MASCHERA.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—NIXON'S ROYAL CIRCUS

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway, opposite Bond street.—BABES IN THE WOOD—BOB NETTLES.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway.—HENRIETTE—FORTY AND FIFTY.

LAURA KEENE'S THEATRE, No. 624 Broadway.—SEVEN SISTERS.

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—RAG PICKER OF NEW YORK—SPITFIRE—RAYMOND AND AGNES.

THEATRE FRANCAIS, No. 585 Broadway.—LES ENFERS DE PARIS.

BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway.—Day and Evening—RUTH OAKLEY—FLYING DUTCHMAN—BEARS, SEA LION AND OTHER CURIOSITIES.

BRYANTS' MINSTRELS, Mechanics' Hall, 472 Broadway.—BURLESQUES, SONGS DANCES, &c.—DOWN IN OLD K-Y-KY.

NIBLO'S SALOON, Broadway.—LLOYD'S MINSTRELS IN BURLESQUES, SONGS, DANCES, &c.—BILLY PATTERSON.

MELODEON CONCERT HALL, No. 539 Broadway.—SONGS, DANCES, BURLESQUES, &c.

ATHENÆUM, Brooklyn.—DRAMATIC READING.

CONTINENTAL HALL, Paterson.—WOOD'S MINSTRELS IN SONGS, DANCES, BURLESQUES, &c.

New York, Monday, April 8, 1861.

The News.

An official of the administration, as will be seen by our despatches, left Washington yesterday for Montgomery, Alabama. The object of the mission was not known.

From Charleston we learn that the people were fully advised as to the warlike preparations of the federal government, and in consequence the greatest excitement prevailed. On Saturday, when the supply of provisions was sent down to Fort Sumter, Major Anderson was notified by General Beauregard that no more supplies for the garrison could be obtained in Charleston, which was regarded as a declaration of hostilities on the part of the commander of the Confederate forces. Governor Pickens, with his Council and the senior officers of the army, were engaged during Saturday in inspecting the batteries in Charleston harbor, and everything was found in a state of efficiency. Troops had been ordered to rendezvous within supporting distance of Charleston to watch the movements of the enemy. The people of Charleston all appeared to be in fighting humor, and declared themselves prepared for any emergency.

Despatches from Montgomery, Alabama, state that no attack will be made by the troops of the Confederate States on either Fort Sumter or Fort Pickens. To do so, President Davis argues, would be to place the new government in a false position before the world, and he is determined that if civil war must ensue, the first blow shall be struck by the administration at Washington.

Washington City was yesterday filled with all sorts of reports, rumors and speculations in regard to the present naval and military preparations of the administration. The President, it is said, in conversation does not hesitate to express his determination to "hold and possess" the government property where it is practicable, and, as far as possible, to carry out the views expressed in his inaugural address. A plan for the peaceable evacuation of Fort Sumter is said to have been agreed upon, and that the order to Major Anderson will be issued to-day.

The Roanoke was taken out of the dry dock at the Brooklyn Navy Yard on Saturday evening, and her place will be occupied by the Savannah to-day.

The outfitting of the steam transports recently chartered by the government is being rapidly pushed forward. The Illinois was hauled round yesterday to the dock recently occupied by the Atlantic, where a cargo of arms and provisions was taken on board. She sails to-day, and will receive her troops in the bay from a steamtug. The Baltic is also being rapidly got in readiness for sea, and will follow in a day or two.

The admirers of Henry Clay, the venerated sage of Ashland, are making preparations to celebrate the forthcoming anniversary of his birthday with all due honor. The Clay Association intend having a grand social reunion, including a sumptuous dinner, with the necessary adjuncts of wit, wine, song and speech, at the St. Denis Hotel, in Broadway. The festival will take place on the 12th inst.

The Corcoran Court Martial case has been set down for a final hearing this afternoon, at four o'clock. Richard O'Gorman, the defendant's counsel, will sum up, and it is expected the case will then be finally adjudicated.

A letter from a correspondent at Arroyo, Porto Rico, dated March 16, gives the following as the prices of produce at that place:—Sugars, $3 a $3 75 per 100 lbs., extremes, with a downward tendency; sales principally at $3 25, $3 37½ a $3 50. Molasses, 10c. a 11c. per gallon, without cask. Charters—United States, 38c. a 40c. for sugars; molasses $3 25 a $3 50 under deck, $3 on deck. Exchange on New York nominal and difficult to negotiate; London, $5 a $5 05; Paris, par for five francs.

By advices from Bermuda to the 26th ult. we learn that a heavy gale of three days' duration, commencing on the 21st had been experienced on the islands, by which the potato crop was much injured.

The market for cotton on Saturday was steady and quiet for lots, in store, while the sales, including parcels in transit, were larger and footed up about 7,000 bales, chiefly within the range of 12¾c. a 13c. Flour was less buoyant, and closed at prices in favor of purchasers, while sales were tolerably active. Wheat was more active and in good demand, in part for export. Corn was firm, with a fair amount of sales. Pork was firm and less active, with sales of mess at $17 18¾ a $17 25, and of prime at $12 75 a $13. Sugars were steady, with sales of 1,100 hhds., at 4¾c. a 5¼c. for Cuba, and 5¼c. a 6¾c for Porto Rico, and 100 boxes at 5¼c., and 180 hhds. melado on private terms. Coffee was dull, with small sales at steady prices. Freights were steady, with a fair amount of engagements.

FREE TRADE AND DIRECT TAXATION.—The Chevalier Forney thinks the adoption of the policy of absolute free trade and direct taxation by the government at Washington would soon starve the government at Montgomery into submission. The idea is not a bad one, and we therefore recommend it to Honest Abe Lincoln and his Cabinet and party as a good thing. Suppose they try it. Its adoption would cause the secession of the New England States, no doubt; but if we secure by it the border slave States and the seceded States we can let New England go to Halifax.

Invasion of the South—The Inauguration of Civil War.

By order of the federal government, on Saturday ships of war and transports, with troops, provisions, stores, ammunition and arms, large and small; tools, sandbags, spades and other siege tools; stalls for horses, boats, boat howitzers for landing, and "all the circumstance of war," cleared from this port with sealed orders, for parts unknown. The city was like a camp, and the excitement was intense. Some of the officers of the army, knowing the bloody mission on which the Powhatan and Atlantic are sent, resigned rather than mingle in the fratricidal conflict. The ships which have sailed are but the van; others are preparing to follow them, not only from this port, but from the Navy Yard of Charlestown, Massachusetts, where there is the same warlike activity as at Brooklyn and New York.

It is thus evident that a bloody civil war is resolved upon by Mr. Lincoln and his Cabinet After long hesitation, the President has screwed his courage to the fighting point. At what precise spot he intends to commence hostilities or to provoke them—whether at Charleston, Pensacola, the mouths of the Mississippi or in Texas, where there is an evident design to excite "domestic insurrection," or at all of these places together—does not yet appear; but a few days will unfold the mystery.

To Mr. Lincoln, his Cabinet and the leaders of the republican party three courses are open—first, to yield to the Confederate States and to all the slaveholding communities their just rights as coequal partners in the Union, which would have had the effect of healing the breach and reuniting the sections; second, to permit a peaceable and bloodless separation, either in the hope of reunion at a future day, or at least of a friendly alliance for mutual defence against foreign foes, and for the establishment of commercial relations, which, if not specially favoring the North, would at least not discriminate against her; and third, to wage a war of subjugation against seven sovereign States, which will be ultimately extended to fifteen, to compel them to submit to the authority of the government at Washington, and to pay tribute to it, whether they are represented in its Congress or not, in contravention to the great principle for which the colonies fought and conquered the mother country in the Revolution of 1776—the principle that "without representation there can be no taxation."

The first of the three courses was the best, and would have been that of a statesman. The second is the next best course, because the most successful war could only lead to the same result after inflicting an amount of suffering and calamity upon the country at which the imagination is appalled. As for now restoring the revolted States to the Union by war, that is the wildest chimera that ever entered the brain of man. But it is probable that even if the Northern section should succeed in subduing the South (for that is the naked aspect of the war when stripped of all its disguise), the same favorable terms would not be obtained, certainly not the same *entente cordiale* so necessary to the future peace and prosperity of both sections, as could be secured by the peaceful arts of diplomacy and statesmanship, which seem to have been completely ignored at Washington. The third course has been adopted, and that is unquestionably the worst of all. If it fails, and that is very possible, it will be destructive to the prestige and to the interests of the North, to say nothing of the overwhelming expense and debt which it will entail upon the country, the many hearths it will leave desolate and the feelings of bitter eternal enmity which it will have engendered between two geographical sections separated by an imperceptible line.

The pretence of carrying out the laws of this Union in the confederate States, enforcing the federal authority and collecting the revenue, is too transparent to deceive any person. It has been clearly demonstrated that it is impossible to accomplish these objects without civil war of the most ferocious kind. To make the attempt, therefore, is deliberately to commence a war whose end the present generation may not live to see, and whose disastrous effects will be such as to annihilate the accumulated wealth of the country at a blow, and throw back its progress half a century. The real object of the war is not to collect revenue, nor to assert the authority of the federal government, nor to protect its property. It is a war of propagandism—a war against the social institutions of fifteen States—a war to extirpate negro slavery, if not to exterminate slaveholders. It is the irrepressible conflict predicted by Mr. Seward and Mr. Lincoln, and for which Garrison, Giddings and the bloodthirsty abolitionists of their fanatical party have been laboring for the last thirty years. It is a revival of the struggle which took place two centuries ago in England between the Puritan Roundheads and the rest of the nation. The vast majority of the people were against them, but by the military genius and iron will of Cromwell the fanatics were rendered successful for a time, after putting their king to death and deluging their native land with seas of blood. But when their chieftain died, their cause died with him, showing that it had no root in the affections of the people, and that it was equally opposed to human nature and the freedom of man. Hence, when Charles II., who had nothing personally to recommend him, was restored, he was "proclaimed with a pomp never before known." A fleet conveyed him from Holland to the coast of Kent; for that republic had no sympathy with the fanaticism of the Puritan republic of England. When Charles landed the cliffs of Dover were covered with thousands of gazers, among whom, says the historian Macaulay, "scarcely one could be found who was not weeping with delight. The journey to London was a continued triumph. The whole road to Rochester was bordered by booths and tents, and looked like an interminable fair. Everywhere flags were flying, bells and music sounding, wine and ale flowing in rivers to the health of him whose return was the return of peace, of law, of freedom."

That was the last of the Puritan faction in England. They have never revived. But their descendants here, the inheritors of their principles and their blood, now seek to inaugurate another civil war upon a question of morals, religion and social polity, in States over which they have not, and ought not to have, any control. Like their ancestors in Great Britain, they are in a small minority, but by an accident and the divisions of the people they have contrived to get hold of the reins of government; they have the sword of the nation, and for the present its purse. With this temporary power in their hands, they are preparing to embark in internecine strife, against the will of three-fourths of the people. But whether they will be fortunate enough to find another Cromwell to lead them remains to be seen. From our accounts the military talent of the army has espoused the side of the Southern confederacy. The South, moreover, is united to a man when it comes to blows, while the North is divided, and will be rent asunder by still greater divisions as the war proceeds, if even insurrections and revolutions do not take place in several Northern States Soon the government will find itself in the position of the British government in the war of our first Revolution, only in a still greater degree. There will be such a storm of opposition, together with a positive refusal to furnish the sinews of war, that the Lincoln administration will be compelled to succumb in disgrace, amidst the execrations of the people and the curses of mankind. And that will be the end of the Puritanical faction in North America.

THE REAL POSITION OF THE BORDER STATES.—In last Saturday's session of the Virginia Convention a test vote was finally arrived at. The strength of the extreme Unionists, as compared to that of the secessionists immediate and in future, was in the ratio of one to five—the Union figures being twenty-two, the disaffected one hundred and fourteen. It has been supposed all along that because Virginia voted to instruct the delegates in her Convention to refer their acts to the final decision of a popular vote, and that a majority of the delegates were avowed enemies to the doctrine of immediate secession, the State was safe for the Union. From all that we can ascertain, however—and we have taken some pains to get at the facts in the case—the struggle in Virginia has been narrowed down to a fine point. The question is not, now, shall Virginia remain in the Union or go out of it? but, when shall she go out? To put the matter plainly before our readers, we must first premise that in the Western part of Virginia, including what is called the Panhandle, there are very few slaves, and the people generally are strong emancipationists. They are determined to remain in the Union so long as peace is preserved. In Eastern Virginia the negro interest predominates, and immediate secession is the cry. Between these extremists there stands a conservative party, headed by Botts, Ridgway and others, and asking for time, in order that the policy of both confederacies may be more fully developed Neither the abstract right of secession, nor the probability that Virginia will exercise that right at no distant day, is denied by any of her public men. The only point of difference is this: whether or not in the case of immediate secession Western Virginia would not go with the Northern confederacy, and thereby complicate matters still further. Virginia does not hesitate because she sympathizes with the North, but because one section of her people cannot rely upon the fidelity of the other section to the peculiar institutions of the South.

The same struggle is going on in Kentucky. The Legislature has just been treated to a speech from Mr Breckinridge, embodying his views upon the all important question. Mr. Breckinridge favors secession He sees no hope for the restoration of the Union He does not believe that the States which have seceded would accept such compromises as could be offered by a Border State Convention. He believes that the seceded States never can be brought back, and that Kentucky ought to go with them Mr. Breckinridge's speech is long and not very strong. One point, however, is worth attention. After stating the case as regards Kentucky in the Union, the Senator says:—

Then comes upon us immediately, instantly, the question of emancipation. The South is cut in half, then, and there are nineteen non-slaveholding States to six or seven slaveholding States—the government practically administered without constitutional limitations, in a spirit of anti-slavery fanaticism; for what loyal Northern man could stand up in the North, when half of the South was gone, in defence of the constitutional rights of so poor a fragment as would remain? We would fall beneath the aggressive power of an overwhelming party. It would become instantly a question of emancipation in Kentucky. A powerful party would rise here for the purpose of carrying for ward such a movement Mr Speaker, it would succeed It is horrible to contemplate, and nothing less than cession and courage will prevent us from seeing these spectres in the future as powerful realities. A party in Kentucky will be raised to put in practice the workings of emancipation, whether with or without compensation I cannot say; if with compensation, it will probably be a mere nominal matter But there is even a higher question than that of pecuniary interest involved. I have said that *the Southern States will not allow the slaves to be carried there, and the North will not allow them to be carried into their midst* Aside, then, from the question of property, you will have a quarter of a million of slaves thrown upon the soil of Kentucky—a political and social curse Then sir, you will see trouble in the state It is a social question, as well as a political one. It is one in which every white man in Kentucky has an interest *If time allowed, I think I could undertake to show that the non-slaveholding white population of Kentucky have as deep an interest any other people in resisting and preventing that accursed policy which is to bring emancipation into this country, as to throw two hundred and fifty thousand negroes on the back of society.*

This is the root of the difficulty in the border States. If they go out they can still maintain their negro trade with the South. If they remain true to the North what is to become of their negroes? As Mr. Breckinridge says, this is a question of vital importance to every white man, slaveholder or not, in all of these States. The border States have to choose between secession and abolition, and that they will accept the former as the lesser of two evils admits of no reasonable doubt.

THE OPINION OF THE CHARLESTON MERCURY.—The Charleston *Mercury*, the leading organ and oracle of the secessionists, thus discourses upon Mr. Lincoln's war preparations:—

An invasion, a campaign or war by land or sea of the North on the South is, in our opinion, gammon. Coercion is manifestly so nonsensical and absurd that, if it were practicable, it would not be attempted, and it is utterly impracticable for Mr Lincoln and his rump government to make effective war upon us. The North, to be sure, is besotted, and Lincoln has threatened. He may hold Forts Sumter and Pickens until obliged to yield them; he may, and probably will, keep Key West and Tortugas, because we have no naval resources, until a treaty of amity is made, or until the Confederate States have naval appliances for ousting him; but as to anything like real war, or anything beyond a few collisions concerning the forts, proving our temper and capacity in this revolution of government, we are altogether and entirely skeptical Lincoln's secrecy and activity, which trouble the correspondents, go to this extent, no more; he is nonplussed and fidgetty. He desires to hold the remaining forts if he can, and will give them up when he must.

Another point in this argument of our Charleston cotemporary is that fighting "immediately and obviously destroys the Union party in the border slaveholding States," and that, accordingly, our federal administration will not go beyond the few collisions referred to. We apprehend, however, that a brush at Fort Sumter or at Fort Pickens will not only carry off the border slave States, but that it may bring a Southern invading force up against Washington, which will inaugurate a general civil war. Within this month, or within this week, we shall know which way the wind is blowing.

AN OLD PATRIOT HUMBUGGED—PERHAPS.—We hear nothing more of Mr. Crittenden's appointment to the Supreme Court.

THE MYSTERIOUS AND THREATENING ASPECT OF THE REVOLUTION.—Secresy is only the defence of the weak, and is always calculated to arouse suspicion. It is, therefore, a bad sign when we find the administration of this country hiding its designs, as the ostrich hides his head, in the face of proceedings that are the theme of universal comment and anxious speculation from Florida to Maine. We find the government chartering and despatching transports laden with troops and stores, and equipping the entire naval force at its command with the utmost haste, and without letting the public know the purpose or destination for which they are intended. Meanwhile rumor is busy on the wing, and we are left to conjecture. Some say the vessels are bound for Pensacola, which is probable; others that they are for Texas, in order to carry on the war against the Indians that are making hostile demonstrations on the borders; while many surmise any and everything, probable and improbable, from active interference with Spain at San Domingo to the reinforcement of Fort Sumter.

To the ominous and painful uncertainty occasioned by these warlike movements, we have added an increased distrust of the administration, consequent on the surmise that there is trouble, almost amounting to a split, in the Cabinet. It is evident that the war section of that august body has triumphed over the peace section. What, therefore, are we to expect? The administration, by working only in the dark, has evidently no definite policy to proclaim, and is weak and uncertain in its movements. Now, let us ask in what good can all this secresy result, and what necessity is there for maintaining it? There is no necessity for or utility in it whatever. It is only blinding the people, while the country is drifting to ruin, and while civil war with all its attendant horrors is being wilfully inaugurated Look at the immense harm the condition of things is producing in financial and commercial circles; for, of course, according to the acts of the administration, direct or mysterious, stocks in Wall street rise or fall, and just now, as a consequence, we find the heart of the money market very irregular indeed in its pulsations.

From present appearances we know what we may expect in the future. We see that all the professions of peace uttered by Mr. Lincoln and others were mere idle talk, or else made to lull the country into a state of false security till the administration concluded its loans and was ready to strike a blow. Fort Pickens, on its lonely sandbar, may, in its ruins in years hereafter, tell of the bloody battle of Pensacola, which commenced the civil war that desolated the United States in the year of our Lord 1861. Our fervent prayer is that it may not, and that those enemies of their country who cry for blood may be disappointed. But of this there seems now to be little hope.

FOREIGN SYMPATHY WITH THE TWO CONFEDERACIES.—It has been industriously reported in some of the republican papers that secret agents were despatched by the government at Washington to France and England immediately upon the inauguration of Mr. Lincoln, for the purpose of securing the good feeling of these countries in behalf of his administration, and preventing the recognition of the Southern confederacy; and it is now asserted that these agents have returned with the assurance of the full accomplishment of their mission—that neither of these governments will recognise or countenance the Southern confederacy. This is absurd on the face of it, because there has not been sufficient time since the 4th of March in which to consummate any such object; and we know that the very last intelligence from Europe only brings news of the receipt of the President's inaugural and the comments thereon. One of the radical organs says that the agency of these special messengers was entirely unnecessary, because it is well known to the administration "that the slaveholders possess no hold whatever on the sympathy or respect of any part of the civilized world." This statement is about as absurd and as false as the one concerning the mission of the secret agents. We know, from all the expressed opinions of the sovereigns, the statesmen and the journalists of Europe which are entitled to any weight, that the Southern confederacy has their entire sympathy. Without any regard to the question of slavery, the commercial issues involved in the political difficulties of this country have directed the sympathies and the interests alike of foreign nations towards the free trade policy of the South. The manufacturing interest abroad, everywhere, is in favor of the recognition of the Southern government, from motives of self-protection, and it is simply ridiculous to tell us that the governments of Europe are "decidedly hostile to the slave confederacy," in the face of such articles as have appeared recently in the English and French press.

DAY BREAKING.—The Boston *Post* discovers, from the late elections in Connecticut, Rhode Island, Brooklyn, St. Louis and elsewhere, that the day is breaking; while others, from the warlike movements of the administration, declare that a very dark night is coming on We fear that these late elections are all moonshine, and that our shallow Northern democratic organs, who hail them as good signs for the Union, are only betraying their anxiety for the public plunder from which they have been thrust aside in consequence of their own folly. The republicans, having gained the federal spoils, are too busy squabbling over them to pay much attention to these petty local elections. In the ordinary course of things it will take nearly two years to make them feel the pressure of public opinion, and in the meantime civil war stares us all in the face. Can nothing convince our poor old hidebound democratic organs that old things are done away with, and that we are in the midst of a revolution?"

AN EXTRA SESSION OF CONGRESS.—There can be very little doubt now that "Honest Abe Lincoln" will soon be compelled to call upon Congress to come to his relief. He is moving his fleets and land forces upon a scale which will in a very short time absorb all the ready funds, loans and Treasury notes of Mr. Secretary Chase, to say nothing of the threatened complications of actual war, which only Congress can reach. Let us all, then, prepare for a long parliament, a long war, general bankruptcy and a military despotism. Bombs, guns, drums and gunpowder will soon make sad havoc among the bulls and bears, lame ducks and spread eagles of Wall street. The war faction of the republican party now rules the camp.

THE REPUBLICAN WAR CRY FROM THE NORTHWEST.—The republicans, as in various other local elections East and West, have recently suffered a heavy defeat in Cincinnati. The *Gazette* of that city, the leading republican organ, thus accounts for it:—

Anticipating the questions that will be asked as to the cause of this Waterloo defeat, we may say that Sumter did it. The republicans, dissatisfied and discouraged, had no heart to work, and they surrendered, without seriously contesting the field. And if a temporizing policy is to be continued at Washington, this is but the beginning of the end.

Mr. Lincoln has taken the hint. He finds that Mr. Seward does not speak the voice of the republican camp, which is for war, but that Blair and Chase do represent the party. Hence Seward goes to the wall, and we may expect soon to hear that he has bowed himself out of the Cabinet. It is getting too hot to hold him. Greeley is still his master; and Thurlow Weed, shifting his sails to the wind, begins to talk of fighting.

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

WASHINGTON, April 7, 1861.

AFFAIRS IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA.

The government has advices from Central and South America to the 13th of March. From Costa Rica and Nicaragua the political news is unimportant. The treaty with the latter government had not been acted on and the prospect of its ratification was not flattering. The movement which was on foot for the consolidation of all the States into one government was well received, and the impression was very general that it would be consummated.

The diplomatic relations between Ecuador and Peru, which have been so long interrupted, are on the point of being renewed. Corpancho, who was accredited by Peru to the government of General Francho, has been recognized by Garcia Moreno, and the Ecuadorian government has sent a Minister to Lima. Knowing his unpopularity, and living in constant apprehension of an attempt against his person, Castilla never ventures from home without a guard of a dozen soldiers. He is in almost open war with the Congress of the republic, and recently returned all the acts to that body with his observations, the Congress, on the other hand, insisting on their passage. It is generally thought that this state of affairs cannot continue much longer. The reflecting portion of Peruvians deplore the troubles which have distracted the United States, because they weaken the influence of the great republic, heretofore regarded as a check upon the arbitrary measures of the great European nations against the South American States.

The provisional government of Bolivia has convoked Congress to meet on the 1st of May. Several candidates for the Presidency have been put forward; among others, Gen. Belzal. The feelings of the present Cabinet were very friendly to the United States.

AFFAIRS IN SAN DOMINGO.

It is a mistake to suppose that recent events in Dominica have excited any peculiar interest on the part of the administration, and least of all that the subject especially enters into the instructions of our Minister to Madrid. Nothing is authentically known here beyond the fact that the Spanish subjects on the island sent to the Captain General of Cuba for assistance, and that the two or three hundred troops despatched by him were under orders not to land unless by request of the authorities. There is, however, some anxiety to learn what Spain will now do in the premises. That she was privy to the revolutionary movement is a mere conjecture, as it is said that even in diplomatic circles there is no information on which to base such a conclusion.

MISCELLANEOUS AFFAIRS.

There is a fierce struggle going on here for the Commissionership of Public Buildings in this city. There are a large number of candidates. New York has two—Christopher Adams, from Albany, backed up by both Senators, both branches of the Legislature, and architects and engineers innumerable. The other candidate is the famous Wood, who had charge of the Presidential party on their way from Springfield, who is entirely unfit for the place, not possessing the requisite requirements. It is a fat office, however, and Wood claims that he has earned something handsome. His services may be required here before long to engineer the party back to Springfield again.

All the talk about New England and Pennsylvania putting themselves on a war footing to sustain the present imbecile and vacillating administration is regarded as the merest twaddle. In the event of hostilities a New England man would not dare show his face in this city. Maryland says she will take care of all such people.

The President has appointed the following Postmasters:—David Price, at Newark, N. J.; Wm. H. Post, Yonkers, N. Y.; Hadley P. Burdill, Chelsea, and Nathaniel K. Noble, East Cambridge, Mass.

Among the candidates already mentioned for the vacancy on the Supreme Bench is N. H. Swayne, of Ohio. Mr. Seward is also named for the same place.

Mr. Sumner called upon the President yesterday afternoon and requested the immediate appointment of Mr. Norton, of Charlestown, as Navy Agent of Boston. The President declined, and informed the Senator that there were other applicants to be heard.

Mr. Corwin, Minister to Mexico, and Mr. Burlingame, Minister to Austria, have returned to Washington, and will receive their instructions and hasten to their posts of duty. Mr. Corwin's instructions are completed.

Mr. Botts, of Virginia, had an interview with the President yesterday.

The Dead Letter Department of the General Post Office was the scene of great consternation yesterday afternoon. Upon emptying some bags just arrived from Florida, two copper head snakes suddenly emerged from their contents to the intense fright of the officials. The reptiles were killed after an exciting scramble. Comment on this dastardly piece of vengeance is unnecessary.

News From the State Capital.

WEST WASHINGTON MARKET—THE GOVERNOR'S ANTICIPATED VETO OF THE ALBANY AND SUSQUEHANNA BILL—THE CANDIDATES FOR SUCKSSOR TO MR. VAN DYCK AS SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION—THE CATHOLIC ORPHAN ASYLUM—THE GIBBONS AND NELSON AFFAIR, ETC., ETC.

ALBANY, April 7, 1861.

The Commissioners of the Land Office have reconsidered their action in the West Washington market property, and have now agreed to sell that property to the city for three hundred thousand dollars, including the cost of survey. Comptroller Hawes asked them not to fix the price over two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, but this they would not accede to. The vote of the Board on the three hundred thousand was unanimous.

The veto message on the Albany and Susquehanna Railroad bill is expected in the Senate to-morrow. The friends of the bill are rallying their forces to-night to override the veto. An interesting time is anticipated, and we are promised to have placed on record a letter of the Governor, written during the last campaign, promising to sign it. Verily, the promises of politicians are as chaff in the wind. The veto insures a democratic delegation to both Houses of the next Legislature from those counties. They cannot override the veto in the Assembly.

The contest for Superintendent of Public Instruction is becoming quite interesting The case lies between A. J. H. Duganne, of New York; Risley, Clerk of the Assembly, and Keyse, present Deputy. Risley is opposed by the D. B's of the Order of Chautauqua.

The House Committee have concurred in the Senate appropriation of fifty thousand dollars to the Catholic Orphan Asylum of New York. This was inserted in the Senate by McLeod Murphy.

The committee to investigate Nelson's action with Gibbons have summoned two or three witnesses to prove that it was a joke. They consider that they have proved the point and a majority will report that Nelson should not be censured, because Gibbons looked upon it as a joke. They are willing to clear Nelson on that point, but not to give Gibbons the benefit of this wonderful discovery. There will be a majority report against Nelson. Should the majority report be endorsed by the Assembly, there will be an effort to reinstate Gibbons.

The Steamer John Bell.

BOSTON, April 7, 1861.

The steamship John Bell, from Glasgow via Portland, and bound for New York, passed Highland Light, Cape Cod, at sunrise this morning.

The Great Four Mile Race at New Orleans.

NEW ORLEANS, April 6, 1861.

The great four mile race came off to-day over the Metairie Course, Lightning distancing the favorite horse Panic, in the first heat, and beating Planet two straight heats. Time—8:02 and 8:13¾. The track was very heavy. Over three hundred thousand dollars exchanged hands. Doswell's Virginia horses did not win a race.

Affairs in Norfolk

NORFOLK, April 7, 1861

John O. Lawrence, Unionist, has been re-elected Mayor of Portsmouth by 206 majority.

The schooner Julia, of Maryland, has been seized for violation of the Virginia inspection laws.

Abolishment of Capital Punishment in Massachusetts.

BOSTON, April 7, 18

The State Senate yesterday passed the bill abolishing capital punishment by a vote of 18 to 16.

Fire at Plymouth, Mass.

PLYMOUTH, April 7, 18

Exchange Block, on Midale street, was destroyed by fire this morning, resulting in a loss of about $1 mostly insured. Two firemen were severely, but fatally, injured. The principal occupants of the building were E. H. Bradford, grocer; Lysander Dunham and D. Barrows, shoe manufacturers.

Markets.

NEW ORLEANS, April 5, 18

Molasses, 25c. a 26c. Flour quiet at $5 20 a $5 2 superfine. Coffee firm: sales of the week. 3,950 bags 10½c. a 14c; imports, 14,000 bags; stock in port, 1 bags, against 21,500 bags the same time last year.

NEW ORLEANS, April 6, 18

Cotton—Sales to-day 12,000 bales, at 12½c. a 13 middling. Corn buoyant at 55c. a 56c. Freights—cotton, to Liverpool, ⅝d.

Reconstruction of the Police Precinc

THE NEW PRECINCT OF HORSE POLICE ABOVE TRAL PARK.

The Police Board have adopted the report prepare Superintendent Kennedy, remodelling the entire syst police precincts and patrols for this city. Four nev cincts are added, making the whole number thirty. of the new precincts are at the upper end, and two ower part of the city. The precincts north of Fourt street are adjusted with a view to a mathematica regular patrol, according to the rectangular direct the streets and squares. Below Fourteenth stre division into precincts carries out the same prin instead of following the arbitrary lines or bounds c old ward limits. Under the new regulation the n ines of communication or patrol, as presented by th are as strictly adhered to as possible. Each polic will be posted to watch, not around a number of c cated corners, but upon as direct and square a as possible, thus enabling him to cover the est extent of ground in an effective m The change is a valuable improvement, shows in what simple and radical matters our system has needed skilful direction. But the cha ture of the new arrangement is the fact that it recog at last, the necessity of some protection for the res at the upper end of the island. Hitherto one round has visited that district daily, and two horsemen ni The inhabitants have all been compelled to hire p watchmen for their property, and trust to revolve bloodhounds for their personal security. The n rangement very intelligently sets apart all that el region north of the Central Park and west of avenue as a separate precinct for horse patrol main station will probably be at Manhattanville, sub station at Fort Washington, on the Kingsbridg The same judicious principle which regulates plan for the lower precincts by the extent and dir of patrol, as well as the character of the populati turally dictates that the picturesque and irregular try at the upper end of the island should be m upon a different plan. The distance of five miles it presents in length, with its driving roads, by and private grounds, could only be covered by a patrol. The gas has been carried up almost to the end of the island, and when this new police move have been followed up by an accessible supply of water, population will fill in there rapidly, and the daries of the new precinct—between 110th Eighth avenue, the Hudson and Harlem rivers to ten Duyvil—will comprise the most attractive sub the world. The new system goes into operation 1st of next month.

Jersey City Municipal Election.

To-morrow the spring election for the choice officers will take place. Although the city is st democratic, the republicans are sanguine of being push their candidates into office between the two of the disunited democracy. Before the nomi were made, all for the Union were to unite, crush opposition, and thus maintain the nonentity of wh large proportion of Jerseymen are so enthusiastic with the failure of the attempt to join the Iri Americans together faded their hopes, and the c from a national (!), became one of mere persona larity. The following candidates have been put in nation:—

DEMOCRATIC UNION NOMINATIONS.

Mayor—Augustus A. Hardenburgh.
Recorder—Thomas E. Tilden
School Commissioners—Abraham S. Jewell.
Assessors—Louis De Camp and Smith Meade.
Water Commissioner—John Cassidy (short term Ephraim Prey (long).

PEOPLE'S NOMINATIONS.

Mayor—Joseph G. Edge.
Recorder—C. C. Martindale.
School Commissioner—A. S. Jewell.
Collector—H. L. Richards.
Assessors—Alonzo Jaquins and Smith Meade.
Water Commissioner—David S. Bedford and Culver.

REPUBLICAN NOMINATIONS.

Mayor—Cornelius Van Voorst.
Recorder—W. L. Dickinson.
School Commissioner—M. R. Case.
Collector—Dick Hare.
Assessors—Dr. W. Stone and F. P. Budden.
Water Commissioner—A. S. Whiting (short term

In addition to these, nominations have also been for the Aldermanic districts of the city where it pected the election will be much more warmly co than for the offices at large.

At Hoboken the contest for the Mayoralty between J. R. Johnson and Charles Chamberlain gentlemen of great local popularity.

Fires in New York.

FIRE IN WEST TWENTY SEVENTH STREET.—Between and one o'clock on Saturday morning a fire occu the premises of William Jones, No. 291 West T seventh street. The flames were quickly extingu Damage slight.

FIRE IN JACKSON STREET.—About half past ten o'cl Saturday morning a fire broke out on the roof of the building No. 8 Jackson street, caused by a spark blacksmith shop. The flames extended to the r Nos. 10 and 12 before the fire was extinguished property is owned by Mr. Lynch The damag amount to about $100, said to be insured.

FIRE IN WEST FORTY-FIRST STREET.—A fire occu the cakum factory of Mr. McCormick, Nos. 78 a West Forty-first street. The flames were exting by the workmen in the factory. Damage trifling

FIRE IN SOUTH WILLIAM STREET.—About half pa o'clock on Saturday evening a fire was discovered office of Leach & Co., No. 1 South William street, caused by some ashes in a wooden box. Damage $10.

FIRE IN 143D STREET.—At seven o'clock on Sa evening a fire was discovered in an unoccupied d house in 143d street, between Eighth and Ninth av owned by William Thornton. The fire was quicl tinguished. Damage slight. The fire, no doubt, a work of an incendiary.

FIRE IN BAXTER STREET.—About two o'clock on morning a fire was discovered in the rag shop Baxter street, owned by John Callahan. The p the Sixth precinct extinguished the fire befo damage was done

Coroners' Inquests.

DROWNED WHILE INTOXICATED.—On Saturday aft as a man named Archibald Andrew was walking the gang plank of the steamer Passaic, lying at t of Barclay street, he fell into the river and was dr Coroner Schirmer held an inquest in the case, w appeared that deceased was intoxicated at the ti that when he fell into the water he made no eff save himself. He was a native of Scotland, a resi Jersey City, and about 50 years of age

On Sunday morning the body of Lawrence H native of Ireland, 50 years of age, was found North river at the foot of Perry street. Decease was a man of intemperate habits, had been missin home for nearly three months past. Coroner Ja held an inquest, and a verdict of death from dr was rendered.

FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE THIRD AVENUE RAILROA roner Jackman held an inquest yesterday at th York Hospital upon the body of Henry Schmidt, man, aged 23, who was fatally injured on the l last January, in consequence of being run ove Third Avenue Railroad car The occurrence ha about six o'clock in the evening, near French's it being so dark at the time that the driver of t did not see the the unfortunate man until he w neath the horses' feet. An effort was made to st vehicle, but it could not be done, and the wheels over Schmidt's breast. He was carried to the York Hospital, where, having lingered in great until yesterday, his death occurred. A verdict cidental death" was rendered.

THE MASSACHUSETTS TWO YEARS' AMENDMENT — House, on the 6th inst., Mr. Wright of Fall moved a reconsideration of the vote by which adverse to legislate in relation to the two years' a ment was adopted. Messrs Branning, of Fy Boston; Deane, of Pawtucket; Tyler, of Somerv Pierce, Dorchester, spoke against the law as it now and a reconsideration was carried by a decisive vot

The question then recurred on the adoption of a for a one year amendment

Mr