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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway.—FAIRY CIRCLE—IRISH TIGER—MAGIC JOKE.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, No. 844 Broadway.—MAGIC MARRIAGE—THE SCHOOLBOY.

LAURA KEENE'S THEATRE, Broadway.—SEVEN SONS.

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—BULL RUN—FAST WOMEN OF THE MODERN TIME—NICK OF THE WOODS.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—STICKNEY'S NATIONAL CIRCUS.—Afternoon and evening.

BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway.—Day and Evening—ANGEL OF MIDNIGHT—HIPPOPOTAMUS, LIVING WHALE, AND OTHER CURIOSITIES.

BRYANTS' MINSTRELS, Mechanics' Hall, 472 Broadway.—CHAW ROAST BEEF.

HOOLEY'S MINSTRELS, Stuyvesant Institute, No. 659 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN SONGS, DANCES, &c.

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

CANTERBURY MUSIC HALL, 585 Broadway.—SONGS DANCES, BURLESQUES, &c.—NEW YEAR CALLS.

GAIETIES CONCERT ROOM, 616 Broadway.—DRAWING ROOM ENTERTAINMENTS BALLETS, PANTOMIMES, FARCES, &c.

AMERICAN MUSIC HALL, 444 Broadway.—SONGS, BALLETS, PANTOMIMES, &c.—BLACK SHOEMAKER.

CRYSTAL PALACE CONCERT HALL, No. 45 Bowery.—BURLESQUES, SONGS, DANCES, &c.—BRIGAND'S OATH.

METROPOLITAN CONCERT HALL, 600 Broadway.—SONGS, DANCES, FARCES, BURLESQUES, &c.

PARISIAN CABINET OF WONDERS, 563 Broadway.—Open daily from 10 A. M. till 9 P. M.

NATIONAL MUSIC HALL, Chatham street.—BURLESQUES, SONGS, DANCES, &c.—SOUTHERN REFUGEE.

NOVELTY CONCERT HALL, 616 Broadway.—SONGS, DANCES, PANTOMIMES, BURLESQUES, &c.

New York, Saturday, November 23, 1861.

THE SITUATION.

Rumors were prevalent in Washington yesterday, and it is said upon good authority, that the general admission among the foreign diplomatic corps was that Captain Wilkes is perfectly justifiable, according to international law, in having arrested Mason and Slidell from the deck of a British vessel, and that England should be the last Power to object to it, inasmuch as no other nation has done more to establish the principle upon which Captain Wilkes acted on that occasion.

Lord Lyons has expressed no opinion upon the subject, either officially or informally, to any member of the administration up to this time.

A force of General Smith's division made a reconnoissance, on Thursday, in the direction of Fairfax Court House, to a point near Flint Hill, but did not discover the enemy. They brought home, however, no less than eighty wagon loads of forage, and in this respect were successful. Their principal object was to obtain supplies.

Our vessels continue to run the blockade on the Lower Potomac. The Wyandank ran through on Thursday night, reaching the Navy Yard next morning. Though three shots were fired at her she was not struck—a fortunate circumstance, as she had forty barrels of powder and a number of loaded shells on board. The steamer E. B. Hall also ran the blockade downward, having on board a large quantity of ammunition and ordnance stores generally. Two schooners, loaded with wood, also ran the blockade successfully on Wednesday night.

The naval expeditions from the Eastern Atlantic ports appear to be progressing. The splendid transport Constitution, which left Boston for the South, touched at Portland early yesterday morning, where she was to take in the Twelfth Maine regiment; but finding a large quantity of ammunition and stores awaiting her there, she was unable to take the troops on board and was to start immediately on her mission. It is said also that Captain David D. Porter, of the navy, is now actively engaged in Boston in getting up an expedition for some point in the South—destination unrevealed of course at present. There are some eighty government vessels of various tonnage now lying in Boston harbor, most of which are ready for immediate service, and it is probable that Captain Porter will have an opportunity very soon of employing them on the Southern coast.

We learn from Baltimore that General Dix received news yesterday that the disorganization of the rebel forces in the county of Northampton, Virginia, was complete. The commander of the rebel forces, Colonel Smith, was attempting to escape with some of his officers from the lower extremity of Northampton county; but by the orders of General Dix, Flag Officer Goldsborough had put the whole coast under close watch, so that their escape is very likely to be intercepted.

The frigate San Jacinto, with Messrs. Mason and Slidell on board, which lay at Newport on Thursday evening and left there at midnight, reached Holmes' Hole yesterday morning *en route* for Fort Warren, where she was expected to report herself last night and deliver up her prisoners.

Intelligence reached Jefferson City, Missouri, yesterday, by a train from the West, that the rebels had burnt down the town of Warsaw on the night previous, to prevent its being made winter quarters for the Union troops. A large quantity of government stores were destroyed in the conflagration.

THE NEWS.

Seventeen old whale ships have been purchased by the government at New Bedford, Mass., and loaded with what the soldiers of the Massachusetts Sixth regiment call "Baltimore rations" (stones and brick bats), and taken South to be sunk at the entrance of certain harbors. The following are their names:—Arctic, American, Archer, Amazon, Cossack, Courier, Frs. Henrietta, Garland, L. C. Richmond, Rebecca Simms, Kensington, South America, Herald, Potomac, Maria Theresa, Leonidas, Harvest. The following named whalers have also been purchased at New London for the same purpose:—Ship Lewis, bark Fortune, ship Corea, bark Tenedos, ship Timor, ship Meteor, ship Robin Hood, ship Phœnix. The vessels of this fleet sailed for their destination on the 20th inst.

The steamship Constitution, of General Butler's expedition, arrived at Portland from Boston yesterday morning. It having been found necessary to take on board extra stores and munitions, the Twelfth Maine regiment did not embark on the ship, and she would sail from Portland immediately after completing her lading.

The Northern Black Horse cavalry regiment at Troy left that city yesterday on the steamer Francis Skiddy, and will arrive in New York to-day. They have no horses, very few arms, and the men are not half uniformed. Perhaps Major General Morgan can tell why they are not properly equipped. The First Vermont cavalry, one thousand strong, fully equipped and uniformed, and having some of the finest horses the State can produce, will leave Burlington next week, and come by the way of Troy, thence down the North river to this city, on their route to Washington. It is a singular fact, but nevertheless true, that not one New York volunteer regiment has yet left for the seat of war fully equipped, while all of the New England regiments, with the exception of four or five from Massachusetts, have entered Washington ready to take the field at an hour's notice.

The treason declaration of John C. Breckinridge and his rebel followers, which we publish to-day, is the most open and barefaced revolutionary document, we will venture to say, that has ever been concocted. It sets out by virtually denying the right of the majority to rule, and boldly asserts that the acts of the Legislature are not worth a button, and should be entirely disregarded. It bids defiance to the federal and State authorities, and orders the Governor to convene a new Legislature for the purpose of disfranchising the people and handing the State over to Jeff. Davis.

The Kentucky rebels who are headed by John C. Breckinridge have a portable newspaper, in which they print all their treasonable movements. It is called the *Courier*, and was recently published in Louisville; but, finding the Union sentiment in that city getting too strong, it changed its location to Bowling Green; but, affairs not working satisfactorily at that place, it shot off to Nashville, Tenn., where it is now issued.

In Tennessee there is evidently considerable mistrust of Jeff. Davis' bogus confederacy. They do not like to trust it to too great an extent, and therefore an oath is administered to the members of the Legislature, by which they are bound not to consent to any act that will abridge the rights of the people, as guaranteed to them by the State constitution.

The bringing of the Eastern shore of Virginia, embracing the counties of Accomac and Northampton, again into the folds of loyalty, is good news for the oyster traders and consumers. The shores, bays, creeks and inlets, from Chingoteague Island to the Chesapeake Bay, are paved with millions of bushels of oysters, which accumulate faster than they can be used. The State of Virginia heretofore has derived considerable revenue from the sale of her oysters, the tax upon which was one of the favorite measures of ex-Governor Wise; but, like a great many other sources from which money was obtained in the South, this is now cut off. The oyster trade will soon be reopened, and a thriving business will be again carried on with the Eastern shore.

On the 18th inst. the Provost Marshal took possession of all the city buildings in Alexandria, Va., including the offices of the Mayor and Auditor, and the chambers of the Board of Aldermen and Common Council. The spirit of secession had commenced to work again in Alexandria, and most of the city officers had declared their determination not to heed the election proclamation of Governor Pierpont. Hence the late order of General McClellan, and this timely action of the Provost Marshal.

A bill was introduced last month into the Nevada Territorial Legislature stipulating that any member of either house who should be guilty of receiving money for the passage or defeat of a bill should be punished by death. The punishment was afterwards changed to depriving a member who should be convicted of such a crime forever of the right to hold office.

Ohio has twenty-three regiments in active service in Western Virginia, sixteen in Kentucky, two in Missouri and two on the Ohio border. The State has also in service twelve batteries of six guns each.

Sergeant Geo. W. Nason, of the Massachusetts Twenty-third regiment, passed through this city yesterday, with five bushels of letters and parcels for the men of the regiment.

A volunteer regiment is being organized at Jefferson Barracks, Sackett's Harbor, Jefferson county, where six hundred of the men are already quartered. They expect to be in marching order within sixty days.

A Naval Court of Inquiry will be held this day (Saturday) at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, of which Stewart L. Woodford, Esq., is appointed Judge Advocate.

The examination of the seventeen prisoners of the alleged slaver Augusta was commenced yesterday before Commissioner Henry, and adjourned to this day.

There was an important error in the ordinance which appeared in our report of the proceedings of the Board of Councilmen yesterday. The amount appropriated for the relief of the families of the volunteers was $500,000, and not $250,000.

The Dublin *Freeman* of the 9th of November reports that at a meeting of tobacco manufacturers held that day, it was agreed to advance the price of manufactured tobacco two pence per pound from that date, in consequence of the great rise in the price of the leaf.

The cotton market was again excited yesterday, and sales were more active, while prices were firmer. The transactions embraced about 3,000 bales, closing on the basis of 24½c. a 25c., chiefly at 24½c. a 24¾c., at which prices were very firm. The sales made were nearly equally divided between spinners and speculators. The flour market was steady, with increased sales, closing firm at about the quotations of the previous day. Wheat was from 1c. to 2c. higher, caused by the influence of the foreign news, while sales were tolerably active. Corn was some less buoyant, while sales were tolerably free, within the range of yesterday's prices, closing at 65½c. a 66c. for shipping lots of Western mixed. Pork was more active and firmer; prime mess sold at $14 a $14 50, part for December delivery; $12 50 a $13 for mess, and $8 50 a $9 for prime. Sugars were quiet, and sales limited at unchanged prices. Coffee was more active, with sales of 2,000 bags Rio, part in bond, at 13c.; 1,700 do. Laguayra at p. t., and 200 do. Maracaibo at 17½c. a 18¾c. Freights to English ports were firm, with a fair amount offering, while to the Continent they were unchanged.

RENEWAL OF THE WAR UPON THE CABINET.—The abolition journals are renewing their war upon the administration through the medium of fabricated despatches from Washington giving a false color to the observations which fell from Secretaries Cameron and Smith at the recent supper to Prentice, of Louisville. It is sought to show that on that occasion the Secretary of War declared himself in favor of arming the negroes at the South against their masters, and that Secretary Smith passed a strong censure upon his colleague for compromising the Cabinet by the utterance of such sentiments. There is not a word of truth in either of these statements. There is no more conservative man in the Cabinet than General Cameron, and he is the very last of its members who would be likely to subject himself to such a rebuke. On the "contraband" question he favors no other policy than that laid down in the President's modification of the Fremont proclamation, and which has been carried out, both before and since, by Generals Butler, McClellan, Sherman and Dix. There can be but one object in these fabrications, and that is to create disunion and dissension amongst the members of the Cabinet, with a view to breaking it up, and thus working out the views of the abolitionist rump. All such efforts, however, will be defeated by the firmness of the President and the patriotic feeling of those by whom he is surrounded. And in regard to this supper which has furnished occasion for these lying statements, it is noteworthy that it should have been given at the house of Forney. That shallow pated Mephistophiles seems never satisfied without breeding trouble for others, or getting involved in it himself. If he does not mind he will soon find himself in a similar mess to that by which he was so nearly wiped out of political life under the Buchanan administration.

Abolition Mutiny in New York Against the Government.

The abolition rebellion against the President, for his fidelity to the compact of the constitution on the question of slavery, and his firm determination to execute the laws of Congress without regard to platforms or parties, has rallied around General Fremont from the moment that he unfurled the black flag of emancipation in Missouri. His removal was the signal for a concerted attack on the President by the abolition presses in every part of the country. Symptoms of a disloyal and rebellious spirit were exhibited in the interest of the displaced General in St. Louis. But the mutiny has at length culminated in New York, as the reader will find by referring to the programme of a demonstration to Fremont, which we copy, in another column, from the *Tribune*, under whose influences, auspices and direction the movement was set on foot, in opposition to the government.

According to the statement published by Greeley, it is to be a very formidable affair, and the turbulent revolutionary portion of the German population, who are very imperfectly acquainted with the institutions and laws of the country, is appealed to, because native citizens or those foreign born citizens who speak the English language are known to be opposed to the course of Fremont, with the exception of the abolition clique, who have persuaded the most ignorant of the Germans that Fremont has been removed because of his devotion to "freedom in its real essence," and because of his friendship for foreigners in general and Germans in particular. "Our glorious three hundred" are dragged into the arena in order to add to the effect, because they are Hungarians and Germans, while the heroic deeds of men born in the country, and of citizen soldiers of Irish birth, are ignored and passed over in silence. This is a rebellious, mutinous and disorganizing movement, calculated to sow the seeds of discord and strife, and to bring the government into contempt at a moment when it needs the unanimous support of the people to save the republic from shipwreck.

It is not true, as alleged, that Fremont was removed because of his proclamation, though that would have been a very good reason for his removal, and the dismissal of one of the Secretaries of Departments would be justified on similar grounds. Fremont had no right to inaugurate a political policy for the government; least of all had he a right to do so in opposition to the expressed will of the President and Cabinet in the instructions to General Butler, and in contravention of an express act of Congress passed with special reference to the slaves of rebels. The act of Congress only went the length of declaring free such slaves as were found in arms, or employed in the fortifications and trenches of the enemy, or otherwise actively engaged in the service of the rebel generals. This, it is known, was signed with reluctance by the President. But Fremont goes a step further than the law, and proclaims the slaves of rebels free, whether engaged in the service of their army or not, and that, too, by a mere military edict, and without trial in a court of civil law. This, however, was not the ground on which Fremont was removed. His error was publicly rectified by the President, after great injury to the Union cause had been done in Missouri, and Kentucky had been nearly lost. But he was not removed until his incompetence as a general had been completely demonstrated by the most glaring and indisputable facts, and his political blunders had been cast into the shade by his military incapacity.

The President acted upon a detailed report of the Adjutant General of the army, which had left Fremont not a leg to stand upon; and he was not influenced by the foolish proclamation whose evil effects had been removed, nor even by the silly imperial airs which the General had put on. But the satanic agents of abolitionism, in order to manufacture public odium against the President, announced that the removal originated in the fact that Fremont was too strongly attached to the principles of freedom for the stomach of the Chief Magistrate, who, since his accession to office, has disappointed the hopes of the abolitionists by his refusal to violate the solemn oath he took to maintain the constitution and the laws. Because he did not play the part of a usurper by overthrowing both, and substituting an electioneering platform in their stead, he is denounced in an editorial article in yesterday's *Tribune*, by implication, as "a liar and a fool, who professes one thing to-day to get office, and another to-morrow to keep it." The *Tribune* argues that because the President, before his election, stood upon the Chicago platform, he is bound now, as the Chief Magistrate, to carry out its doctrines, whether they conflict or not with the constitution and the laws and with his own oath of office.

But to strengthen the reason it assigns why the President should perjure himself, the *Tribune* asserts that a majority of the people voted for the Chicago platform. If that were true it would be no valid ground for the President's violation of the constitution, that instrument having been expressly drawn up to prevent the tyranny of majorities and to guarantee fundamental rights in perpetuity. But it is utterly untrue that the Chicago platform was voted for by a majority of the people. Mr. Lincoln was elected only by a plurality vote, and nearly two-thirds of the voters voted directly against him and the platform, while many of those who voted for him did not intend to endorse the platform.

Finding that he was elected by a minority of the people, Mr. Lincoln was too sensible, practical and honest a man to attempt in any form, or by the most indirect means, to inaugurate a political policy in opposition to the will of the majority of the people, and at the same time in conflict with the constitution and the laws. Accordingly we find him and his subordinates, in a series of documents which we republish to-day, faithfully discharging the trust reposed in him by all classes of loyal citizens. These are Secretary Cameron's instructions to General Butler (very different from his after dinner speech); the letter of the President to Fremont; Mr. Cameron's instructions to General Sherman; General Sherman's proclamation (denounced by the *Tribune*); the proclamation of General Dix; the letter of Attorney General Bates, and the speech of Secretary Smith, in which he declares he expresses the sentiments of the President as well as his own. These State papers are in perfect harmony with the resolution of the House of Representatives and the act passed in the extraordinary session of Congress last summer, as well as with the action of the last Congress in organizing a Territory so as to permit planters to settle in it with their slaves—an act in accordance with the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of Dred Scott, which is the law of the land till reversed by another decision of the same tribunal, or by a change in the constitution, effected in the manner pointed out in the constitution itself. What, then, is the suggestion of the *Tribune*? It is that the President ought to use his position to revolutionize the government of the country.

Finding that Mr. Lincoln will not play into their hands, the abolitionists and their satanic organ, who instigated the secessionists of the South to revolt, are now laboring to render the separation perpetual, and to have two governments, one consisting of slave States and the other of free. They are well aware that unanimity at the North is necessary to the restoration of the Union under the extreme difficulties of the case. But they are fomenting division and doing all they can to make the war unpopular. This is the object of the forthcoming demonstration, and the President ought to put down his foot firmly and order the arrest of every mutineer concerned in getting up this disloyal and seditious movement against the government.

Symptoms of Faltering Among the Rebels and Fright Among the Abolitionists.

The abolition journals of the city have been thrown into considerable ferment, within the last few days by a declaration, attributable, on the authority of a correspondent of the *Journal of Commerce*, to Bishop General Polk, that "if President Lincoln would come out and say that the Dred Scott decision is right, and that the South shall have equal rights in the Territories, the rebels would lay down their arms and return to their homes; that the great question of difference would thus be removed, and we all become brothers as of old." Such incendiary newspapers as the *Tribune* and the *Evening Post* have no idea of settling matters in a manner so conformable to the constitution and the laws, and betray their anxiety lest such a result should be effected by frantic ebullitions of passion, and indiscriminate misrepresentation, which it is not to be supposed can deceive the public.

It is impossible to say whether the other leaders of the Southern insurrection coincide with the view of General Polk; but if Jefferson Davis, General Beauregard and their associates are prepared to lay down their arms and return to the allegiance they have forsaken, on no other conditions than such as are already provided for by the constitution and the laws, and should make a proposition to that effect, it ought by all means to be entertained. In fact, what General Polk declares to be requisite for the restoration of peace has been already provided for, even by the present Congress. It adopted a resolution at the last summer's extra session, in which it was distinctly set forth that the sole and only object of the war was to restore the supremacy of the constitution and the laws. The decision of the Supreme Court, in the Dred Scott case, is one of those judicial landmarks from which the President, whatever may have been his private and individual tendencies in times that are past, can have no disposition or will to depart. It is virtually incorporated as an authentic exposition of the constitution which he has solemnly sworn to cause to be obeyed, and which will be the guide of his acts, just so soon as the integrity of the Union shall have been re-established. The laws, moreover, for the organization of the three or four last Territories that have been organized, have all been framed in accordance with the popular sovereignty programme of the late Senator Douglas, and fully protect the rights of slaveholders over their property in the domain which belongs to the States in common. General Polk asks, therefore, for no more than the constitution and the laws fully guarantee to every citizen and section, and, if the desires of all those who are engaged in the unholy rebellion have become restrained within equally reasonable limits, there is no reason why there may not be a speedy return to peace.

The Confiscation act, passed by the last session of Congress, is nothing more nor less than a necessary supplement, adapted to existing circumstances, of the laws that always have prevailed, against treason. It provides for the extraordinary necessities that have been created by the wholesale insurrection that has convulsed the Southern States. We have no doubt, however, that if General Jefferson Davis and his fellows will send, under a flag of truce, such a proposition to President Lincoln as is incorporated in the language of General Polk, and if the rebels will consent to lay down their arms, it will be promptly considered by the administration, and the period of calamity that has recently visited the country will be brought to an end. Our armies may then be united, and the government of the United States will have leisure to turn its attention to the aggressive attitude assumed by foreign Powers, and properly to punish those who have insulted us.

From his inauguration, up to the present hour, President Lincoln has pursued precisely the policy that General Polk has advocated in his proposition. It is on this account that he has been compelled to encounter the continually increasing hostility of the newspaper organs of the abolition party, and that they now appear ready to attack him in advance, for any co-operation he may undertake, tending to restore peace, on the basis of the constitution and the laws. The *Post* cannot conceive of "an ignominy so base" as laying down arms on any other than abolition conditions. It would "stultify," it says, the decision of the last Presidential election. The *Tribune*, with characteristic ferocity, denounces the President as "a liar and a fool," if he dares to continue true to his inaugural oath. These journals, and the mischievous faction they represent, are filled with terror and trepidation lest the rebels should show signs of reason, and return to the allegiance they have so rashly and wickedly forsaken. The howl they have begun over General Polk's declaration, will, however, deceive no one, and it may yet form the groundwork of peace, if it shall be adopted by the masses of the Southern people as a proper basis of negotiation.

Far better would it be to bring back the South, and to avoid further effusion of the blood of our citizens in internecine strife, if it can be done with honor, than to perpetuate the war unnecessarily. The aspect of our foreign relations is sufficiently menacing to call forth the patriotism and military enthusiasm of every good citizen. The intervention of the Powers of Europe in the affairs of Mexico, in direct contravention of the settled non-interference policy of the United States respecting the concerns of the American continent, is of itself an outrage which calls for the deepest resentment on the part of our government. With the united armies of the North and of the South, what a stupendous array of force would be presented to the world! Over one million of brave and well disciplined soldiers would be ready to sweep away every vestige of foreign rule between the North Pole and the Isthmus of Panama, and the whole of North America be united in one vast and invincible empire.

Our Army in Accomac—Governor Wise and His Oyster Fundum.

Oysters! Reader, sit down with us to a dish of Virginia oysters. Our army of Maryland is in occupation of Accomac and Northampton counties of the Old Dominion, lying between Chesapeake Bay and its numerous creeks on the west, and on the inlets and estuaries of the Atlantic Ocean on the east, all swarming with fish, fowl, crabs and oysters.

Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries are indispensable to New York, in view of this single item of oysters. With the loyalty of Maryland, this glorious bay, on both sides for a hundred miles and more, with all its affluents, and its delicious shad, canvass back ducks and oysters, has been secured to the glorious cause of the Union. With the good footing thus established in the oyster fundum of the Chesapeake, New York could feel easy on the score of oysters. But from the mouth of the Potomac, for sixty or seventy miles down to the sea, this glorious bay aforesaid, on both sides, was occupied by the rebels, excepting that snug little corner of Old Point Comfort and Fortress Monroe. Now, with old Accomac and Northampton counties in our possession, the entire eastern side of the bay is ours down to the ocean, and all the estuaries of the ocean on the other side of the peninsula, with all their water fowl, fish and oysters.

All hail, Old Accomac! a name which has become familiar from its connections with Henry A. Wise. In Accomac is the home of the redoubtable ex-Governor, and to his long residence there we are indebted for his learned messages and speeches on crabs, hard shells, soft shells and shedders, and on sea fish, water fowl and oysters. Our readers will remember that some two years ago he submitted to his State Legislature a scheme whereby the oyster fundum of Virginia would relieve the people of the Commonwealth of all their State taxes, including the interest of the State debt. His scheme was a tax upon oysters exported to other States—a levy upon all "outside barbarians" and their schooners, sloops and pungies, gathering oysters in the sacred waters of the Old Dominion. His statistics of the Virginia oyster crop exported would furnish annually a pyramid of oyster shells as high as Cheops. But his scheme of an export duty fell like a wet blanket upon the oyster dealers and oyster eaters of Gotham. Happily the Virginia Legislature gave the cold shoulder to this crude scheme of taxing the Yankees for their Virginia oysters, and so they escaped an oyster extortion of a million and a half or two millions of dollars.

Secession has temporarily robbed us of an immense area of the oyster mines or fundum of Virginia, embraced in the tributaries and creeks of the Chesapeake, on its western side, from the mouth of the Potomac down to Old Point Comfort—a point so named from its delicious hogfish, sheepshead, sea trout, soft shell crabs and comforting oysters. Still we have the lion's share of the good things of the Chesapeake, including, with the new supplies of Accomac and Northampton, an abundance of oysters, to the end of the war. Gen. Dix invites us to the waters of Pocomoke, Chincoteague, Puncoteague, Chesteneakey, Broadwater, Waswadox and Ocobamock, of the Virginia peninsula. Let us rejoice that the Union, for the purposes of this war, has not only the heaviest artillery, but the heaviest oysters, and three-fourths of the fundum of the Chesapeake and old Point Comfort, too.

We believe that Southern Maryland and Southeastern Virginia, tributary to Chesapeake Bay and embraced in its oyster fundum, will experience a great work of regeneration at the end of this war. With the kindly soil, the genial climate, the good and convenient markets, the navigable waters, and the cheap lands of this region made manifest, a vast Northern emigration will pour into it and occupy it. And the oysters! Where the waters swarm with the finest fish and water fowl, and where the bottoms of creek and river are literally encrusted with oysters, can such a country be any longer permitted to run to seed? Our soldiers have opened the way; they will return to us at the close of the war, only to report their discoveries, and thousands of followers will go back with them as a permanent army of occupation.

Then, and not till then, will the great oyster fundum of Chesapeake Bay be fully worked and cultivated—then, fried, roasted and stewed, and raw upon the half-shell, and in smoking pies, we shall all luxuriate upon cheap oysters. Then, we shall remember, with something of forgiveness for his treason, the learned messages and speeches of Gov. Wise on crabs and oysters; and from his late residence at "Only, Near Onancock," renovated by some Long Islander or Jerseyman, Gov. Wise will be proclaimed as the Christopher Columbus of the Chesapeake oyster fundum, and he will have a monument of oyster shells reared there to his memory. Ben, bring us in a dish on the half-shell of the best Pocomoke or Nanticoke oysters.

ENGLISH NEUTRALITY—STARTLING DEVELOPEMENTS.—We publish this morning an important letter from Mr. George Francis Train, dated from London, giving some valuable information regarding the extent to which "aid and comfort" is being afforded to the rebels in England. The facts stated by the writer are to be relied upon, as he and other loyal Americans residing there have employed detectives to watch these proceedings. After describing the contraband cargoes of the Bermuda, the Fingall and the Thomas Watson, Mr. Train proceeds to state that several other vessels similarly loaded are now due at the pirate rendezvous. The night before his letter was written, the Gladiator, one of the old Lisbon screw steamers, took on board at Erith, a few miles below London, a full cargo of arms and munitions of war, and was to clear next day for Teneriffe and Nassau. The estimated value of the cargo is $300,000, and it comprises everything necessary for the equipment, so far as arms are concerned, of an army of 25,000 men. The names of all the parties concerned in this enterprise are given, as well as those of the captain and officers of the vessel. Mr. Train communicated these particulars to Captain Marchand, commander of the United States war steamer James Adger, who had just arrived at Southampton, and is now on the watch for the Gladiator. He also recommends our cruisers to be on lookout for her on this side, as it is possible she may elude his vigilance.

He states, in addition, that the English Government have recently sold nine condemned men-of-war, including the Carysfort, to a house who has disposed of them again to the Confederate Navy Department. Besides these acquisitions the secessionists are in treaty for the Punjaub and Assaye, two East Indiamen of 1,800 tons and 800 horse power. We have here an explanation of the delay of such a large number of rebel naval officers on board the Nashville.

It is to be hoped that greater vigilance heretofore will be exercised by the commanders of our blockading force to intercept these supplies which are being sent in such immense quantities to the Confederates from England. Three or four American war vessels should be sent at once to cruise off the English coast, with the aid of Mr. Train and other loyal Americans at the other side, to prevent these vessels being broken in bulk and transshipped at sea and other points of rebel rendezvous.

THE BOARD OF BROKERS—GAMBLING GOVERNMENT STOCKS.—Early in the commencement of the war the Board of Brokers passed a resolution prohibiting its members from transacting time bargains in government stocks. This prudent regulation has been owing to the firmness which has marked the prices of government securities, as distinguished from the fancy stocks, which have been fluctuating wildly with every alternation of good or bad news. It has also, we are satisfied, been one of the main causes of the success of Mr. Chase's financial measures. We understand that some members of the Board have violated the rule by selling government stocks on time to the street. An investigation should be instituted into the facts, and the offenders visited with expulsion. The interests of a few individuals must not be allowed to outweigh those of the government and the country.

THE MAYORALTY.

Fernando Wood Accepts the Nomination of Mozart—The Mayor's Speech.

The committee appointed at the Mozart Hall convention, which met on last Thursday, to notify Wood of his renomination, assembled yesterday, by agreement, for the purpose of fulfilling their mission.

The committee, which was composed of twenty-four members, waited on Mr. Wood at the Mayor's office about 4 and; after the formalities of introduction were over, ex-Alderman Francis, as chairman of the body, stated the object of the visit. He said, "I have been made chairman of the committee to apprise your Honor of your nomination for re-election as Mayor, and beg you to accept of the nomination." The speaker then went on to say, that notwithstanding the fact that Mr. Wood had not sought the nomination—for three months (the speaker) had been told by the Mayor that he did not desire a renomination—yet he begged his acceptance. He had not found a man opposed to the nomination, which had been made unanimous by the Convention, with the exception of one dissentient vote, and the person who had cast that vote afterwards heartily approved of the choice of the Convention. The speaker also said "that Mozart was obliged to advertise for a candidate, like Tammany; Mozart looked for herself, and the Convention verified that no other man but Mayor Wood would suit them." Mr. Francis concluded his remarks by hoping that the Mayor would accept the nomination, because if it did not benefit him, he could benefit the city.

Hon. FERNANDO WOOD, in response, remarked that he felt he had held the office of Mayor long enough. While he recognized it as, and knew it was, a station of great prominence, highly honorable, and calculated to excite the ambition of any man, he was satisfied that it could give him no further honor, and that he meant self praise—but because he had attained to the office three times, and he had not the power to hold it now without power to reform many of the abuses of the city government which were known to him, and of which he was fully aware. Under the present system it made no difference who was Mayor; one man was as good as another. The Mayor was a mere clerk, or, rather, the head, he was *de facto* the tail of the city government. If the office had the power and dignity he had once, he would desire to retain it. There was no man who could build up no better monument for himself than the chief magistrate of the great city of New York. The position afforded a better opportunity for the display of creative ability than the Mayoralty of the city. He had other reasons why he ought to retire. He had children to educate, and he ought to enjoy the comforts of private life rather than attempt to discharge the duties of Mayor, when he was conscious that he was rendering no good to the public, and none to his friends. The present condition of the city had much to do with the position of Mayor of New York. The attention of the people of this continent and Europe, at this time, was directed to New York, and she would bear herself in the pending struggle so that if peace was to be restored, the movement for restoration must be commenced here. He thought that by his continuing in the position of Mayor of New York he could, at the proper time, contribute advantageously to that end. If he could do anything to quiet the conflicting interests of the country and restore harmony, he ought to do it. The City of New York made him what he was, and she had a right to claim his services in any mode in which they were needed. The city was materially affected by the crisis of the country. Her position was such that she could not escape. He did not despair of the Union; he clung to the Union, and believed that New York would again be the centre of the North and South and the West. It would be unfortunate at this time to have the office of Mayor a man whose opinions or action would interfere with a reconstruction of the Union. New York should still continue to hold a national position, giving no aid to either South or North by electing a mayor other than a national and conservative man, who was ready to labor to prevent the calamity of another party again having possession of New York. He had, for public reasons, and against the wishes of his family, he had finally concluded to accept the nomination just tendered him, and again be a candidate for the suffrages of the people, hoping that the Legislature would give to the office the power it required to make it useful, and that it might be the means of inaugurating a period of harmony.

People's Democratic Union and Ratepayers' Convention.

NOMINATION OF MR. JOHN KERR FOR MAYOR.

A new democratic organization, called the People's Union and Rentpayers' Association, and composed of three hundred members, assembled at the Cooper Institute on Thursday afternoon, for the purpose of nominating an independent nomination for Mayor.

Mr. John Duffy, of the Seventh ward, was called to the chair, and a long list of honorary secretaries was read, after which speeches were made by Messrs. J. B. Taylor, Duffy and others, explaining the objects of the meeting.

One of the delegates spoke of the necessity of an independent nomination for Mayor, and proposed the name of Mr. John Kerr, the well known brewer, for Police Commissioner.

The nomination was carried unanimously, and then the Convention adjourned, subject to the call of the Chair.

Republican Police Justice Convention.

This Convention, composed of delegates from the Eighth and Ninth wards, met last evening in the Tammany Building—E. R. Phelps in the chair, and John Jones, Secretary—for the purpose of nominating a Police Justice for the district. The Convention, however, adjourned on Wednesday evening, without making a nomination.

Relief for North Carolina.

BROADWAY, CORNER CHAMBERS STREET, Nov. 22, 1861.

To J. M. MORRISON, Esq.:—

It gives me great pleasure to send you a check for $500 for the "Relief Fund for Loyal Citizens of North Carolina," for which State I have ever had a warm affection, and I cherish the hope that she will soon be again to be restored to that Union of which she was the early friend, and from which she has been so long a prisoner, against the real interests and the wishes of her loyal people. Yours, very truly,

ALEXANDER T. STEWART.

The Government and the New Pilot Boats.

We understand that the officers of the government have purchased the New York, and Sandy Hook No. 11, and are examining with the same view the others. For despatch or mail boats there are no vessels in the world, either for speed or safety. There are a number of them, recently built, which could be obtained for this purpose, that have been built in the most substantial manner, as indeed the nature of the business demands that they should be, and of the most comfortable, and, in some instances, elegant manner. Should the government establish a line of boats, and from the various blocking fleets and officers on our coast with these boats, a degree of security would be insured not to be obtained in any other way, and at a cost comparatively trifling. The cost of a first class pilot boat, complete, would be about what the government now pays for the hire of a steamer for one month, say nothing of the expense of fuel.