MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.

Proposal to Make the Herald a Corporation Medium of Advertising—Important Communication from Comptroller Brenman—He is Opposed to the Issue of Fractional Currency and to the Purchase of the Fort Gansevoort Property, &c., &c.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

This Board held the first meeting of the February session yesterday at one o'clock—William Walsh, Esq., President, in the chair.

PROPOSITION TO MAKE THE HERALD A CORPORATION PAPER.

Alderman BOOLE presented the following resolution:—

Resolved, That the NEW YORK HERALD be and is hereby designated as a corporation paper, to publish the official proceedings of the Common Council and the advertisements of the departments of the city government.

Alderman FARLEY presented the following:—

Whereas, there are at present a number of papers employed by the corporation to publish the proceedings of the Common Council; and whereas, it is the opinion of this Common Council that the publication of the same in several of the papers is unnecessary and very expensive; therefore,

Resolved, That the Committee on Printing and Advertising be directed to report to this Board at its earliest convenience a plan to economize, reduce and select proper newspapers to publish the proceedings of the Common Council.

The matter was referred to the Committee on Printing and Advertising.

The annual report of the Commissioners of the Central Park was received and two thousand five hundred copies ordered to be printed.

A resolution appropriating the sum of $5,000 to the House of the Good Shepherd was laid over under the rule.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMPTROLLER IN OPPOSITION TO FRACTIONAL CURRENCY, ETC.

A communication was received from Comptroller Brenman in opposition to the issue of fractional currency, which he considers a violation of law, and that he must, therefore, decline to execute the provisions of that ordinance. The Comptroller states that it would cost $95,000 for the expense of preparing the plates. The Comptroller also says that he is opposed to the purchase of the Fort Gansevoort property, as he considers the title is not good, and his convictions have been thus confirmed from the fact of Mr. Draper's former connection with the sale and purchase of that property.

Alderman BOOLE moved, in order that the matter might be fully understood, that the communication be published in all the present Corporation papers and also in the NEW YORK HERALD.

Alderman FARLEY moved to include the *Atlas*, and it was so adopted, and the matter was referred to the Committee on Finance.

The following is the communication:—

CITY OF NEW YORK, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE, Feb. 2, 1863.

TO THE HONORABLE THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK:—

GENTLEMEN—The pressure of the current business of the Finance Department, since my accession to office, has prevented me from giving earlier attention to the ordinance of your honorable body providing for the issue of "Change Notes" for the fractional parts of a dollar, to be used as currency. Having now carefully examined the measure, I am brought to the conclusion that it would be a violation of law to execute its provisions, and I therefore respectfully decline to carry them into effect, so far as this department is concerned.

I regret to thus early encounter a serious difference with the legislative department of the city government; but entertaining clear convictions of duty on this question, and deeming the precedent of grave importance to the public interests, I have no other alternative.

The executive departments of the city government, within their province, have equal responsibility with the legislative, and no executive officer can shield himself from responsibility for doing an illegal act, under any ordinance, direction or authority of the Common Council.

While, therefore, I shall lay no claim to sit in judgment on the wisdom or expediency of this or any other measure, as those considerations are wholly within the legislative discretion, I shall always claim the right of independent judgment upon the question of legal power or authority to do any given act which I may be called upon to perform.

Upon these questions I shall exercise no doubtful powers, and if I err it will be on the side of the law, and, I trust, of cautious prudence. I consider it to be my duty to lay before your honorable body the grounds upon which I found my judgment in regard to the ordinance under consideration.

The ordinance directs the Comptroller to cause the necessary designs to be prepared and engraved, and to procure the printing of notes of the denominations of five, ten, twenty-five and fifty cents, to an amount not exceeding three million of dollars.

These notes are to be payable on demand, to bear the signatures of the Mayor and Comptroller, and are to be deposited with the Chamberlain, who is to be charged with the same, as with the other funds of the Corporation.

The notes are to be receivable for all debts and obligations due to the Corporation, and are to be issued to all persons, desiring the same for circulation, in sums of not less than five dollars, who shall deposit with the Chamberlain current funds for the amount desired. The Chamberlain is required to keep an account of the moneys so deposited, and such moneys are to be held in trust, as a fund for the redemption of the notes, except that the Comptroller is authorized to insert from time to time in the temporary loans of the Corporation a portion of the moneys so received by the Chamberlain, but not exceeding one half of the amount in his hands, the balance to remain in the custody of the Chamberlain for the redemption of the notes.

On presentation of these notes to him in sums of five dollars, or the multiples thereof, the Chamberlain is required to redeem them, and for aught that appears to the contrary may reissue them from time to time, until they are finally called in by the Common Council or Comptroller, under the provisions of the ordinance.

Assuming the scheme to be practicable, and that these notes will be adopted by the public as money, the result would be that the Corporation would at once add to the present enormously excessive paper currency three millions of dollars of additional notes of the most objectionable denomination.

One million and a half dollars of the capital thereby realized would lie in the hands of the Chamberlain as a redeeming fund, and the remaining million and a half would be employed by the Corporation to aid in carrying on the city government.

This, in my judgment, is the exercise of banking powers, as much as if the bills proposed to be issued were for the denomination of five dollars and upwards, and the capital were specially funded. It is wholly foreignto the objects and powers of a municipal corporation, and requires but little enlargement to introduce a most pernicious and dangerous system of banking speculation on the credit of the city, which would remove every safeguard for the public protection against excessive expenditure.

If the city can without limit issue circulating notes or bills for the denomination of fifty cents, it may do so for any denomination, and if to the extent of three millions of dollars, there need be no limit—the principle is the same—and if these notes can be validly issued, the Common Council may direct that they shall be received by all persons having claims upon the Corporation, and thus the city authorities would be embarked at once in a system of limitless credit and limitless expenditure.

If an ordinance of the Common Council may create capital as fast as notes can be engraved and printed, and obligations may be incurred and expenditures made with equal facility, it is not difficult to see that the result, under favorable influence, might prove dangerous, if not destructive, to the ultimate credit and prosperity of our city.

The principle advanced in this ordinance is now for the first time asserted. It has never before been pretended that any such authority exists, either by general grant or special statute in our city government, and, in my judgment, it is not only in violation of the implied restrictions, but of the express provisions of the statutes of the State on the subject of banking and circulating notes. These statutes clearly define the class of corporations which may issue notes for circulation, and have established a special department of the State government, vested with the entire jurisdiction of the subject, including the printing and countersigning of all notes for public circulation, and providing for adequate security for the protection of the public interests. And it is provided by statute that no corporations except such as are expressly authorized by law shall issue any evidences of debt to be loaned or put in circulation as money, and heavy pecuniary penalties are imposed for a violation thereof. Besides, if the Corporation possesses power to issue circulating notes at all, the proposed denominations would appear to be in violation of another provision of the statute, which expressly prohibits the issuing of any bill or promissory note of less a sum or less denomination than one dollar.—2 Rev. Stat., 5th ed. 522, sec. 26.

I cannot but regard the measure, in whatever light it may be viewed, as being wholly without the authority of law.

If I am wrong in my conclusions, your honorable body have the means of correcting my error by an application to the judicial tribunals to enforce the execution of the ordinance.

In any event, should your views of the expediency of the measure remain unchanged, it would be desirable to obtain a judicial settlement of the question of legal power.

If the power does not exist the attempt to exercise it would be attended with endless evils; there would be no sufficient legal protection against fraud, and the notes might be forged without any remedy under the statutes providing against counterfeiting. The notes of this character issued by other municipal corporations have been forged and imitated to such an extent that public faith in such notes would seem to have been entirely lost, and they are generally refused by the business community. In anticipation of the proposed issue of notes by the city, extensively prepared counterfeits, ready to be uttered, have been discovered, and I have no doubt a general system of counterfeiting them would soon be in operation.

I respectfully ask your grave consideration of this question. It presents a principle important in its present application, and still more important if it is to be a precedent for future action.

I have refrained from expressing any views in regard to the expediency of the measure, believing such considerations to be wholly within your legislative discretion; but I would respectfully submit to you, in view of the present abundant supply of fractional currency by the general government, and of the prejudice that exists in the public mind in regard to all other "change notes," whether the public demand in this respect is not only fully met, but whether there is not also a strong probability that the Corporation bills, if issued, would not be taken by depositors to any considerable amount.

And in this connection I would remark that the appropriation of ten thousand dollars to carry the ordinance into effect is wholly inadequate. I have invited estimates of the probable cost of engraving suitable plates and printing notes of the several denominations provided for, and find that that expense alone will exceed ninety thousand dollars, and this does not include the expense to be entailed for clerical and other assistance in carrying the proposed extensive system into operation.

I have also come to the conclusion to decline to execute the resolution of the Common Council for the purchase of the plot of ground known as the Gansevoort property. I am governed by the same principle of duty on this question as upon that to which I have referred at length.

It is gravely alleged that the title to this property is not in the parties from whom it is proposed to be purchased, and, while I am not prepared to say that the objection is valid, I am equally unprepared to decide that it should be disregarded, and the large amount of the proposed purchase money paid out without a judicial determination of the question.

I have concluded to decline payment on the ground of objection to the sufficiency of the title, and leave the parties to their legal remedy.

If they have a good title, the question will be settled for the protection of the city, and if they have not, they are not entitled to the money demanded. It is proper for me to say that I do not consider the sum proposed to be paid to be greater than the present value of the property, or that the premises are not well adapted to a public market.

So far as I can learn the facts upon which the question of title arises, it would appear that in or about the year 1852 the property, then being owned by the Corporation, was struck off by Joseph R. Taylor, then Comptroller, to Reuben Lovejoy, of this city, as the highest bidder. He assigned his bid, or directed the deed to be made out, to Mr. Simeon Draper, who was then one of the officers of the Corporation and incapacitated to purchase from the city. This disqualification being discovered, Mr. Joseph B. Varnum was substituted for Mr. Draper, and the deed made to him. It is claimed that the intervention of Mr. Draper made the whole transaction invalid. It is also alleged that the bond and mortgage given for part of the purchase money was not executed in accordance with the terms of sale, the interest specified in the bond being six per cent, instead of seven per cent, as stipulated. I do not consider that to be a question affecting the title. The Comptroller should not have received any other than a proper bond and mortgage, and the city could have at any time compelled performance of the terms of sale in this respect.

The substantial ground of objection is that presented by the appearance of Mr. Draper in the transaction, and upon this ground I have no hesitation in complying with the resolution of your honorable body directing the purchase. All of which is respectfully submitted.

MATTHEW T. BRENNAN, Comptroller.

The Comptroller's financial report shows that the balance in the hands of the Chamberlain and County Treasurer on the 24th of January last was $1,868,048 12.

A resolution to appoint two additional clerks to the Board of Councilmen was laid over.

Alderman LOSS called for a report of the committee who went to Washington to procure the body of Adjutant Lazy, of the One Hundred and Fifty-second regiment.

Alderman BOOLE, chairman of the committee, said they would have reported before this time, but they were in possession of secrets which could not be made known. There had been a revolution, however, down there, and as the secrecy was removed they would report at the next meeting.

The Board adjourned to Monday next at one o'clock.

The Guagers of New York, Brooklyn and Jersey City—The Cooper Union Burying the Volunteers, &c., &c.

BOARD OF COUNCILMEN.

A regular meeting of the Board of Councilmen was held last evening, Morgan Jones, Esq., President, in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Councilman WEBSTER presented a petition from an inspector and guager of liquors, oils, &c. The petitioner represented that on the 29th ult. he received an order to guage five hundred barrels of coal oil, the oil being at that time in Jersey City. Upon proceeding to perform the work he was prevented by the corporate authorities of Jersey City, and informed that, in consequence of not being a resident of Jersey City, he could not go on with the work, it being a violation of a city ordinance passed by the Common Council of Jersey City during the summer of 1862. The petitioner further represented that a majority of the persons engaged in this city in the inspection of domestic liquors and oils are actually residents of Jersey City, and that the business of inspectors and guagers is almost entirely controlled by parties who reside either in Jersey City or Brooklyn. The Common Council was therefore petitioned to take such steps in the matter as should serve to protect the citizens of New York, and place the inspectors and guagers resident therein on terms of equality with those of Brooklyn and Jersey City. Referred to the Committee on Ordinances.

A communication was received from the Mayor transmitting the annual report of the receipts and expenditures of the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art for the year 1862. The following is a brief summary of the document:—

Balance in treasury January 1, 1862	$937 55
Receipts	18,516 27
Total	$19,453 82
Expenditures	$19,276 50
Balance January 1, 1863	177 32
Total	$19,453 82

The document was ordered on file.

A communication was received from the Comptroller transmitting a list of the contracts of the Corporation filed and registered in the Department of Finance during the year 1862.

The document was ordered on file, and one thousand copies ordered to be printed.

The Committee on Donations and Charities reported in favor of donating the sum of $96 to Mary Kavanagh, to defray the funeral expenses of her husband, Francis Kavanagh, who died on the 8th ult. from wounds received at the battle of Antietam.

Councilman GROSS said the subject was a very delicate one and his motives might be impugned, but he felt obliged to oppose the passage of any such a resolution. He thought it was opening the door so wide that it could never be closed again. As the guardians of the interests of the city it was their duty to vote it down. If the amount should be allowed in this case he felt convinced that before the year was out they would be called upon to pay some two or three hundred thousand dollars to defray funeral expenses of volunteers who might die either on the field of battle or in the hospital.

The PRESIDENT said he would warn the members of the Board against the adoption of any such resolution. He had little doubt but that if it were passed they would find that undertakers would go down into Virginia and bring bodies up North for the purpose of claiming funeral expenses from the Common Council. Then, again, there would be "repeaters," who, for burying one body, would bring in perhaps five or six bills. The case under consideration was, no doubt, a worthy one, but for the above reason he should be opposed to the passage of the resolution.

On the question being taken it was lost by a vote of 13 in the negative to 9 in the affirmative.

It was subsequently reconsidered and referred to the Committee on National Affairs.

On motion, the Board then adjourned until Monday evening next, at five o'clock.

City Intelligence.

CHANGE OF LANDLORDS OF THE ST. NICHOLAS HOTEL.—Messrs. Treadwell, Whitcomb & Co., so long and favorably known as the landlords of the St. Nicholas Hotel, resigned their interest in that establishment yesterday. It is now under the control of Messrs. Spotts & Hawks, two Western gentlemen, who have had considerable experience in catering for the public both ashore and afloat. The senior partner, Mr. Spotts, was formerly captain of the Mississippi steamer Eclipse, which ran between Louisville and New Orleans. The other member of the firm, Mr. Hawks, has for a number of years been proprietor of the Richmond House, Chicago. The reputation earned by these gentlemen in the West augurs well for their successful management of the St. Nicholas Hotel—one of the finest establishments of its kind in the world.

IS THE POSTAGE STAMP CURRENCY LEGAL TENDER?—There are a number of interesting cases before our courts at present growing out of this question and involving the disposition of quite an immense sum of money. The subject is regarded as being so important that some of the best lawyers in the city have been retained to argue *pro* and *con*. The subject is to be discussed next week in the Moot Court of Columbia College by two members of the senior class and two members of the junior class, Professor Theodore Dwight presiding. An interesting debate will doubtless occur on the occasion.

THE NEW POLICE JUSTICE.—Captain Joseph Dowling, for many years connected with the Sixth ward police, entered upon his duties as Police Justice yesterday, in place of Mr. Brennan, the present Comptroller. Mr. Dowling will officiate in the Tombs, which is the headquarters of the lower police district.

Sergeant John Jourdan has been promoted to the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Captain Dowling.

CANDLEMAS DAY.—Yesterday having been the feast of the Purification, or Candlemas, was observed with suitable services in all the Roman Catholic and Episcopal churches. In the Catholic churches thousands of candles were blessed as usual, for the use of the altars. The feast is one of devotion, not obligation, and therefore there was no strict injunction to hear mass or participate in the other exercises.

THE EARLY CLOSING MOVEMENT.—The movement for the early closing of the stores, which was initiated some time ago in this city, has proved quite a success, as well as a boon to the employes concerned. Besides the number of business men in Broadway and other parts of the city who have signified their willingness to close their stores, nearly all the grocers and tea dealers on the east side of New York have announced their intention to follow the example from this day forward.

PAINTERS' MEETING.—A meeting of the New York house painters was held last evening at 193 Bowery, with a view to making arrangements for a mass meeting, to be held on the 16th inst., when an appeal to the boss painters will be submitted for more liberal wages. The depreciation of the currency and other attendant evils are causing the painters as well as other working men much suffering, and their employers should therefore see that they are paid reasonable wages for their work.

T. J. LANEY.—A gentleman arrived at the Warrington Hotel, Fourth avenue, on Sunday afternoon about three o'clock, and registered his name as T. J. Laney. He complained of being unwell, called for a room, and retired. He stated that he lived in Brooklyn. Had on a set of sleeve buttons marked T. J. L. He died at ten o'clock on Monday night. The remains will be removed from the hotel for interment in Greenwood Cemetery on Wednesday afternoon, at two o'clock.

Coroner's Inquest.

SUDDEN DEATH OF A NOTED PERSONAGE.

An inquest was held yesterday, by Coroner Wildey, upon the body of Arthur Shawcross, the son of an English nobleman, who was accidentally suffocated at No. 289 Elizabeth street. Deceased, it appeared, was given to dissipation, and brought a fit of sickness upon himself in consequence. His medical attendant ordered him a narcotic draught, which was administered on Sunday night, and had the effect of throwing deceased into a deep sleep. The following morning the inmates of the house were astonished to find deceased dead in his bed. Deputy Coroner Bouton gave it as his opinion that deceased was smothered by turning upon his face during his sleep, and the jury rendered a verdict accordingly.

Arrivals and Departures.

ARRIVALS.

ASPINWALL—Steamship Ocean Queen—Mrs S C Hickox and child, Dr A Heger, U S A, and family; Dr Easton, G F Allardt, S C Hopkins, R S Ells and lady, S J Kennedy, A W Wilson, N Thompson, B F Stone, Mrs J J Ryan, K W Verry, J Grigsby, Capt P A Stall, Mrs S B Platt, Dr J S Conway, G L Faulkner, Capt P W Penhallow, W A White, Mr Bancroft and family, Capt Jones, Capt W W Henry, Capt Lennell, Lieut Merchant, Mrs Ferrari and child, S Abareau and lady, R Perry, S E Kirkpatrick, T Mallaby, Mr Manning, T Tobitry, D Samuels, N Brandon.

HAVANA—Steamship Columbia—J W Brittan, L Dreschen, B Salvat and lady, L Walker, R O Williams, Misses Hudson, R Robson, J Fogarty, S W Efferman, A F Schamuel, J Nixon. From New Orleans—H A Wilmerding, Jr, W D Spiking, T M Converse, Lieut Col H A Billott, J F Alden, H S Van Riper, W H Tillinghast, Mrs J D Henriques and two children, Mrs A H Seaman, Miss H Seaman and servant, Mrs Kilburne, Miss Spark, C Wilkins, Mrs M de Nord, W P Chamberlain, H C Phillips, Mrs Ingate, C Jaubert, Capt T A Rowe, Mrs Rossel, Infant and servant, H Escourse, C A K Dunon, H Walker, C Seaman, C Ripley, J B Bostwick, R Willis, W K Greathouse, J O'Brien, H Bumgardes, Maj O Cross, U S A, A Barton, R P Tod, H Taylor, E W Kitteridge, G H Wilder, G C Taylor, L G Pratt, V Bohner, Miss A E Seaman, C Lum, J Crooks, J K Buggins, Mrs Baumers and two children, H D Alcock, Mrs Quick and infant.

NEWBERN, NC—Steamer Decatur—G W Thompson, J E Snow, Lieut Robinson, D C Greenwood, G Moulton, Dr Lanard, Lieut Walker, Lieut Bingham, Capt Wheeler, Lieut S Foss, Lieut Wilsey, Rev Jas Griffin.

SAGUA—Schr J W Maitland—F Kanaber and lady, and J Wheeler.

DEPARTURES.

HAVANA VIA NASSAU—Steamer British Queen—Havana—E H Crabb, Portland; A Reuter, N Y; Joseph L Hews, Newark; I A R Webster, N Y; S W Tod, N Y; R S Wells, Boston; Mr and Mrs J Lodovici, N Y; Joseph Chapouton, Havana; Wm Webber, England. Nassau—Mrs R G Mitchell, Master Frank Mitchell, Mr R G Mitchell, N Y; F P Salas, Matanzas; C Gent, do; H G Noble, N Y; Mr and Mrs George Gorheim, Buffalo; Mr and Mrs M Henry, Spain; Mr and Mrs Hy Saulsbury, Jr, N Y; Mrs E Gore and infant, Nassau; R S Cushman and man servant, Albany; A M Sampson, Philadelphia; H Salis, N Y; Thos Sampson, Baltimore; John Lee Smith, England; S Havnan, Nassau; Mrs Vateau, child, infant and servant, N Y; Mrs Hastings, England; Mrs Mary C Pirsson, N Y; Jas B Pirsson, N Y; Mrs Henry J Scudder and maid servant, N Y; Col and Mrs J M Davies, N Y. Specie, $23,155.

IMPORTANT FROM FRANCE.

The French Minister's Visit to Richmond—Secretary Seward's Message to the Rebels by M. Mercier—Napoleon's Plan Against Mexico.

[Paris (Jan. 16) Correspondence of London Telegraph.]

The "Yellow Book," which is usually distributed to the Chambers at the same time with the "Blue Book," has not yet been issued to the great bodies of the State. I am ignorant of the cause of the delay, but the substance of several of the documents contained in the volume in question is already known, and amongst them is the following concerning America, of which I give you an analysis:—

In the first place, I find a letter written by Baron Mercier, the French Ambassador at Washington, in which that diplomatist informs the Minister of Foreign Affairs that he had endeavored to word his replies in such a manner *as to accustom the government of the White House to the recognition of the South by France, in case hostilities should continue to rage without any marked result in favor of the North.*

Almost at the same time, M. Mercier wrote to Mr. Seward, informing him of the representations made to him by M. Thouvenel upon the subject of considerable losses sustained by several French commercial houses, by reason of the absolute impossibility of corresponding with the inhabitants of the Southern States. In New Orleans alone that loss is estimated at between six and eight millions of dollars. M. Mercier demanded that the French consuls should be authorized, upon their own responsibility, to forward to the interested parties the letters addressed to them, after having assured themselves that the contents of the said letters were purely commercial. Mr. Seward answered that the demand was of the highest moment, and that it was necessary for him to confer on the subject with President Lincoln, at the same time apologizing for not being able to grant at once what France requested.

On the 27th February, 1862, M. Thouvenel asked M. Mercier to deny, as he had done previously, the recognition of the Confederate government by France, since that Power intended remaining strictly neutral. But on the 6th of March the Minister of Foreign Affairs wrote to M. Mercier, stating that the success reaped by the federal army in Tennessee, might soon put an end to the campaign without the honor of the government of Washington suffering from it, and that France would see with great satisfaction that government endeavoring to discover if there were not some other method of solving the difficulty than war. M. Thouvenel added that the Cabinet of Washington was alone in a position to take the initiative, and to *lay down the basis of a compromise, the necessity of which is felt more keenly every day.*

This was the beginning of the efforts which terminated in the note addressed by M. Drouyn de Lhuys to the governments of England and Russia. But M. Mercier replied that the political situation of the North did not admit of his taking that step—for the present at least—since it would evidently remain without any success. Nevertheless, despite that refusal on the part of the French ambassador, in a conversation he had with Mr. Seward, the latter induced M. Mercier to communicate to him the last despatch of M. Thouvenel, after which, as the baron had anticipated, the American Minister remarked that any step on the part of the neutral Powers with a view to bring about an arrangement could only complicate the actual difficulties. M. Mercier, in the letter in which he informed M. Thouvenel of that conversation, added that the almost general opinion in America about the war was as follows:—"*Nobody desires to reconnect the South to the Union against its will, but only to give it a lesson, and to withdraw it from the influence of its present rulers, so that it might return of its own accord.* The federalists are determined to carry out the trial to the end, and if after that the majority of the Southern population persist in wishing to separate from the Union—*well, it will be suffered to do so.*"

A despatch, bearing date April 13, throws a little light upon the journey undertaken to Richmond by Baron Mercier, and which created such excitement at the time. It appears that he undertook it at the suggestion of Mr. Seward himself, who then believed in the speedy reestablishment of the Union, and without having previously informed the French government of his intention. Before his departure M. Mercier came to an understanding with our ambassador, and repeated to Mr. Seward that the object of his journey was not connected with the recognition of the South, *but only an attempt to bring about an arrangement. The American Minister charged him to state at Richmond that the North was actuated by no sentiments of revenge, and that great satisfaction would be afforded to the inhabitants by the sight of such Senators as the South might consent to send.*

Of the many conversations which M. Mercier mentions having had at Richmond with several important personages, that with Mr. Benjamin deserves to be noted down. That gentleman said that the South had reckoned too much upon Europe and the power of the commercial interests in suspense; but that, nevertheless, the whole population was unanimous in desiring a separation. The South had suffered much, but was resolved to suffer still more to reach that goal. "We do not dissemble from ourselves," added Mr. Benjamin, "that the federalists are possessed of resources much more considerable than ours, and that they may in the end gain possession of all our ports; but if they take our cities they will only find therein women, children and old men. In the War of Independence the English were at one time in possession of all the cities situate on the seaboard; but for all that they did not succeed in carrying the day. The situation is precisely the same. The North combats, as England did formerly, to preserve her supremacy, and we to conquer our independence," &c. * * * * After having related the above conversation *in extenso*, Baron Mercier adds that everybody held the same language. Nobody hesitated to declare that the re-establishment of the Union was impossible.

Napoleon's Plans Against Mexico and the United States As Explained by Himself.

The *Moniteur* of January 16 publishes the following letter respecting the French expedition to Mexico, addressed by the Emperor Napoleon to General Forey, under date of Fontainebleau, July 3, 1862:—

MY DEAR GENERAL—At the moment when you are on the point of setting out for Mexico, charged with political and military powers, I think it useful to let you know my sentiments.

This is the line of conduct you will have to follow:—

1.—To issue on your arrival a proclamation, the principal heads of which will be indicated to you.

2.—To welcome with the utmost cordiality all Mexicans who offer themselves to you.

3.—To side with the quarrels of no party, declare that everything is provisional until the Mexican nation has pronounced itself, and to show great deference for religion, but to reassure at the same time the holders of national property.

4.—To feed, pay and arm according to your means the auxiliary Mexican troops, and make them play a principal part in the battles.

5.—To maintain among your troops and among the auxiliaries the severest discipline, to rigorously repel every act and every remark that may wound the Mexicans, for you must not forget their proud nature; and to ensure the success of the undertaking the disposition of the people must be conciliated above all things.

When you have reached Mexico it would be desirable for the principal persons of all parties who have embraced our cause to come to an understanding with you, with the view of organizing a provisional government. That government will submit to the Mexican people the question of the political system to be definitively established. An assembly will afterwards be elected according to the Mexican laws.

You will assist the new power in introducing into the administration, and especially into the finances, that regularity of which France affords the best example. With this view persons capable of assisting its new organization will be sent out.

The object to be attained is not to impose upon the Mexicans a form of government which they dislike, but to aid them in their endeavors to establish, according to their inclinations, a government which might have some chance of stability, and which would insure to France the redress of grievances of which she had had to complain.

It is obvious that if they prefer a monarchy it is the interest of France to support them in that view.

There will not be wanting people who will ask you why we go to lavish men and money for the establishment of a regular government in Mexico.

In the present state of civilization of the world, the prosperity of America is not a matter of indifference to Europe, for it is she who feeds our manufactories and gives life to our commerce. We have an interest in this—that the republic of the United States be powerful and prosperous; but we have none in this—that she should seize possession of all the Mexican Gulf, dominate from thence the Antilles, as well as South America, and be the sole dispenser of the products of the New World. We see now by sad experience how precarious is the fate of an industry which is reduced to seeking its chief raw material in one market alone, to all the vicissitudes of which it has to submit.

If, on the other hand, Mexico preserves its independence and maintains the integrity of its territory, if a stable government is constituted with the assistance of France, we shall have restored to the Latin race on the other side of the ocean its strength and prestige; we shall have established our beneficent influence in the centre of America, and this influence, by presenting immense openings for our commerce, will procure us the materials indispensable to our industry.

Mexico, thus regenerated, will always be favorable to us, not only from gratitude, but also because her interests will be in harmony with ours, and she will find a powerful support in her good relations with the European Powers.

Just now, then, our pledged military honor, the exigency of our policy, the interest of our industry and of our commerce, all make it a duty to march upon Mexico, and boldly plant there our flag to establish either a monarchy, if it is not incompatible with the national sentiment of the country, or, at all events, a government which promises some stability. NAPOLEON.

Police Intelligence.

BOLD ATTEMPT AT HIGHWAY ROBBERY.—As John Lynch, of No. 114 Laurens street, was proceeding to his home on Sunday night, he was attacked by two men at the corner of Houston and Laurens streets, and a bold attempt made to rob him of his gold watch and a pocketbook containing some valuable papers. The cries of the injured man soon brought officer Garside, of the Twentieth precinct, to the spot, and, after considerable difficulty, one of the assailants, named Charles Williams, was taken into custody. The prisoner, although caught in the very act, had the audacity to deny his guilt, and, when brought before the magistrate, put in the usual plea of "not guilty." Justice Quackenbush thought there was sufficient evidence to warrant his sending the case before the Grand Jury, and committed the accused accordingly. Mr. Lynch had his watch chain broken in the adventure, and his face presented the appearance of having undergone a severe pummeling.

PLAYING THE DETECTIVE.—Henry San Pedro, a Cuban, of highly respectable parentage, was taken into custody at Barnum's Museum on Saturday, on charge of personating a policeman. The accused, it appears, got possession of a deputy sheriff's badge, and by this means passed himself off for an officer. He was in the habit of arresting pickpockets frequently, and then restoring them to liberty on their disgorging their ill-gotten gains. Detective Smith heard of Pedro's doings, and was fortunate enough to come across him at the Museum at a most opportune moment. The prisoner is evidently afflicted with a mania for the detective business, and the best thing his relatives can do is to get him a position under Superintendent Kennedy.

MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.

Married.

BRINKER—BRUNS.—At St. Mathew's church, on Monday afternoon, February 2, by the Rev. Mr. Stohlman, HENRY BRINKER to ANNIE M., daughter of Wm. D. Bruns, all of this city.

MCCAVANA—DEVLIN.—On Monday, February 2, at St. Andrew's Catholic church, New York, by the Rev. M. Riorden, of Poughkeepsie, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Curran and others, Mr. JAMES MCCAVANA, only son of Patrick McCavana, Esq., of Poughkeepsie, to MISS MARY B. DEVLIN, eldest daughter of the late Patrick Devlin, Esq., of New York.

WATSON—STILES.—In Brooklyn, on Thursday, January 29, at the residence of the bride's parents, by the Rev. Mr. Holmes, ALPHONZO N. WATSON to HATTIE J., daughter of Gen. G. K. Stiles, all of Brooklyn.

WILSON—DUSENBERRY.—The report of this marriage is untrue. MORTIMER B. WILSON.

GLENVILLE, Conn., Feb. 2, 1863.

Died.

BRIGGS.—On Saturday, January 31, SARAH BRIGGS, wife of Peter Briggs, aged 55 years, 5 months and 10 days.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, this (Tuesday) afternoon, at two o'clock, at the Dutch Reformed church, at Fordham.

BANG.—On Sunday, February 1, KATHARINE M BANG, daughter of Franc and Sophia Bang, aged 8 months and 9 days.

BLOOD.—At Fairmount, on Monday, February 2, BESSIE LEAVY, infant daughter of Samuel and Emeline Blood, aged 15 days.

BARTON.—At Cornwall, N. Y., on Saturday, January 31, ELLEN M., wife of Hanford Barton, Esq., and daughter of James Jackson, Esq., of New York, in the 27th year of her age.

CURRY.—On Sunday, February 1, JOHN CURRY, a native of the county Clare, parish of Killmeath, Ireland, aged 64 years.

The friends and relatives of the family are invited to attend the funeral, this (Tuesday) afternoon, at two o'clock, without further invitation, from his late residence, No. 28 Thomas street.

County Clare (Ireland) papers please copy.

FENTON.—On Saturday morning, January 31, MRS. ELLEN THOMSON, relict of John Fenton, of Perth, Scotland, in the 95th year of her age.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the Baptist church, Sixteenth street, near Eighth avenue, this (Tuesday) afternoon, at one o'clock, without further invitation.

FRASER.—On Sunday evening, February 1, THOMAS FRASER, in the 52d year of his age.

The friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from his late residence, No. 29 West Twenty-second street, on Wednesday afternoon, at half-past two o'clock.

FITZ MORRIS.—On Monday morning, February 2, at seven o'clock, ALFRED FITZ, eldest son of N. Edward and Anna F. Fitz Morris, aged 4 years, 2 months and 14 days.

The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of his parents, 631 Hudson street, on Wednesday morning, at ten o'clock, without further notice.

Albany and Utica (New York), and Detroit (Michigan), papers please copy.

FLYNN.—Of a few days' illness, WILLIAM FLYNN, a native of the county Mayo, parish of Kilmine, aged 45 years.

The friends and acquaintances of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, this (Tuesday) afternoon, at half past one o'clock, from his late residence, No. 15 State street.

Mayo papers please copy.

GALLAGHER.—In Brooklyn, on Monday, February 2, JOHN GALLAGHER, aged 59 years.

The friends of the family, and those of his sons, Patrick, Michael and James, are respectfully requested to attend the funeral, from his late residence, No. 172 Hoyt street, on Wednesday afternoon, at two o'clock.

GREENE.—On Sunday morning, February 1, of congestion of the lungs, BENJAMIN GREENE, fourth son of Olivia L. and Joseph H. Greene, Jr., aged 6 months and 24 days.

The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of his grandmother, Mrs. Oliver Woodruff, 180 Ninth avenue, this (Tuesday) afternoon, at half-past two o'clock. Her remains will be interred in Trinity Cemetery.

Albany and Providence papers please copy.

HALL.—At Mount Kisco, Westchester county, on Sunday, February 1, NANCY, wife of J. Fletcher Hall, aged 36 years, 7 months and 4 days.

The relatives and friends are invited to attend the funeral, from the Methodist church, Newcastle, on Wednesday afternoon, at one o'clock. Carriages for Harlem Railroad leave Twenty sixth street station at half-past ten o'clock. Returning, leave Mount Kisco at twenty-three minutes past three.

HALAHAN.—PETER, the beloved son of Thomas and Mary Halahan, aged 1 year and 5 days.

The relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, this (Tuesday) afternoon, at half-past two o'clock, from the residence of his parents, 569 Second avenue.

JACKSON.—On Monday evening, February 2, after a severe and lingering illness, DEBORAH JACKSON, widow of Peter Jackson, and mother of Jas. L. and Peter H. Jackson, in the 65th year of her age.

Notice of funeral will be given in to-morrow's papers.

KELLY.—On Saturday, January 31, J. M. KELLY, son of Cornelius Kelly, aged 13 years, 7 months and 21 days.

The friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral, at 173 East Thirty second street this (Tuesday) afternoon, at one o'clock. The remains will be taken to Flatbush Cemetery for interment.

KELLY.—On Sunday, February 1, WILLIAM BERNARD, the only son of William and Margaret Kelly, aged 12 months and 8 days.

Fare thee well, dear William Bernard,
In this world we've lost our joy;
But in the next we never shall sever,
There we will meet our angel boy.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully solicited to attend the funeral, this (Tuesday) afternoon, at two o'clock precisely, from the residence of his parents, 102 East Broadway.

KENNEY.—At Millington, N. J., on Sunday, February 1, MILLIE C., wife of Reuben G. Kenney.

LELAND.—On Sunday, February 1, of diptheria, ISAAC WILLIAM, youngest and dearly beloved child of Robert and Eliza Leland, aged 1 year, 5 months and 7 days.

The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away: blessed be the name of the Lord.

The funeral will leave for Troy, N. Y., this (Tuesday) afternoon, at three o'clock, from the residence of his parents, 322 Bloomfield street, Hoboken, N. J. The friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend.

Dublin and Boyle (Ireland) papers please copy.

LOZIER.—At Bergen Point, N. J., on Monday, February 2, of consumption, FERRIS LOZIER, youngest son of the late Christopher Lozier and Sophia Van Horn, aged 19 years, 10 months and 7 days.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the Reformed Dutch church, Bergen Point, on Wednesday afternoon, at two o'clock. The remains will be interred at Bergen, N. J.

MORAN.—In Brooklyn, on Sunday, February 1, CHARLOTTE ELIZABETH, only daughter of Alexander and Charlotte Moran, aged 9 years, 10 months and 17 days.

The friends and relatives of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of her parents, 207 Front street, this (Tuesday) afternoon, at 3 o'clock.

MURPHY.—On Sunday, February 1, NICHOLAS, third son of Morgan and Anastasia Murphy, aged 2 years and 3 months.

The friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of his parents, 241 avenue B, this (Tuesday) afternoon, at two o'clock.

MCGEE.—On Monday morning, February 2, CATHERINE MARY, only child of Daniel and Catherine McGee, aged 5 months and 25 days.

Suffer little children to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

The friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of the parents, 210 Court street, Brooklyn, this (Tuesday) afternoon, at half-past two o'clock. The remains will be taken to the