MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.

Important Proceedings in the Board of Aldermen—Reports of the Committee on Wharves, Piers and Slips—A Good Move to Regain City Revenue—Appointment of Harbor Defence Commissioners—Semi-Annual Report of the Fire Marshal—The Tax Levy—The Additional $500,000 for the Volunteers—Commodore Vanderbilt's Privileges as to Piers, &c.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

This Board met yesterday at one o'clock, President Wm. Walsh, Esq., in the chair.

The Committee on Wharves, Piers and Slips presented a report in relation to the ferry from pier Forty-third street, North river. The committee state that the lessee had not paid any rent since January, 1862, and that he has sublet the pier. By a resolution attached to the report the Comptroller was directed to take possession of pier No. 43 and remove all encumbrances therefrom. Adopted.

Alderman BOOLE presented the report of the Finance Committee on the annual tax levy, and moved that it be printed in the minutes and made a special order for Monday next. It was so ordered.

The report of the Committee on Wharves, Piers and Slips in relation to the jurisdiction of the Mayor and Commonalty over the wharf, pier and slip property of the Corporation was presented and read.

On motion of Alderman BOOLE the report was directed to be made a special order for Monday next, and to be printed in the present Corporation papers and the NEW YORK HERALD.

The following is the report:—

The Committee on Wharves and Slips, to which was referred a resolution of your honorable body directing them to inquire and report,

First—What rights and jurisdiction the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty have in relation to the construction of wharves and piers; and

Second—Whether the wharves and piers already constructed have been constructed in conformity with law,

Respectfully report:—

The city of New York is pre-eminently a seaport, and as her great prosperity and increase have been owing to the trade and commerce carried on within her limits, so must her future be dependent upon her retaining and encouraging it.

The wharves, piers and slips are most essential and interesting to that trade and commerce, and from the very organization of the municipal government have been, with all matters relating to them, considered of vital importance, and the exclusive supervision, direction and control vested in the corporate authorities of the city.

The exercise of this right has been from almost the first a subject of dispute, leading to conflicts between the authorities and individuals. To terminate these conflicts and to settle and conform to the Corporation the rights claimed and as far as possible exercised, was the principal object of the Dongan and subsequent charters. That such was their purpose is apparent, for the charter of 1686 begins by declaring that "the City of New York is an ancient city, whose citizens have anciently been a body politic and corporate, and have held, used and enjoyed as well within said city as the province, divers and sundry rights, liberties, privileges, franchises, free customs, preeminences, advantages, jurisdictions, emoluments and immunities, as well by prescription as by charter, letters patent, grants and confirmations, not only by Governors and commanders under the Crown, but of the Governors, Directors General and Commanders-in-Chief of the Nether Dutch Nation;" and then grants, confirms, ratifies and establishes the Corporation all their rights, liberties and privileges, &c., to the wharves and docks, and all the waste, vacant, unpatented and unappropriated lands extending to low water mark all around Manhattan Island in fee simple so that no wharves or docks could thereafter be constructed by the riparian owners except over the lands and by the permission of the Corporation.

So also of the charter of 1708, by which for this same purpose, and to enable the Corporation to control all ferries, there was granted to it all lands between high and low water marks on Nassau or Long Island from the Wallabout to Red Hook.

So also in the Montgomery charter of 1730 it is declared that the City of New York is an ancient city, whose citizens have anciently held and used certain rights, privileges, franchises, &c., whereby the city has become a principal seaport exceedingly useful and necessary to our province, whose strength and increase depend upon the welfare, prosperity, trade and commerce of the city, to foster and encourage which it was essential to confirm the rights before held, used and enjoyed by the body corporate; therefore, to more fully confirm these rights, remove all doubts, and effectually secure to the Corporation thereafter the exclusive direction and control of all matters relating to the docks and wharves within her limits, there was granted in fee simple all the docks, wharves, cranes and slips within the city, with the rents and profits thereof, and the soil under water for four hundred feet out from low water mark.

The intent binding force and validity of these charters and grants cannot be lawfully questioned, but if they could be, and if any doubts or difficulties could exist, such questionings, doubts and difficulties were all removed by the Legislature on the 11th of October, 1732, confirming and ratifying each and every part of them with all the power and authority vested in Parliament or the State.

Notwithstanding the amplitude of these powers, in the charters, the importance and necessity of securing to and preserving in the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty the exclusive supervision, direction and control over all wharves, piers and slips within the city, has often been evidenced by the Legislature. In an act passed October 1, 1691, it is declared that the city of New York was chiefly erected for the propagation of trade and commerce, to foster and protect which it was essential and necessary that the Common Council should have all and exclusive power to lay out, establish and control all wharves and docks erected or to be erected within the limits of the city; and so important was the right esteemed that they were authorized to take the ground of any person found necessary in its exercise.

The force and validity of the charters and this act of the Legislature were in no wise impaired by the Revolution and establishment of an independent government; but, had they been, they were affirmed and made effectual by sections 34 and 35 of the constitution of the State, adopted April 10, 1777, and subsequently by the constitutions of 1821 and 1846.

The acts of the Legislature passed since the adoption of the first constitution have had the same intent and purpose as those passed prior to its adoption.

In an act passed April 16, 1787, after reciting that "for the encouragement of trade and commerce of this State it is necessary that the wharves and slips in the city of New York should be regulated with uniformity for the accommodation of shipping and transportation," Wherefore to remove all impediments or obstructions that may retard so necessary a work, it was enacted that it shall and may be lawful for the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty in Common Council convened, to pass all by-laws and ordinances necessary to regulate the buildings erected or to be erected for the purposes of trade and commerce, and for regulating and altering all wharves and slips in such manner as shall in the opinion of the Common Council be most commodious for shipping and transportation, and if for such purpose it should be necessary to take the ground of any person, they were authorized to do so in the manner pointed out.

By an act passed April 3, 1798, the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty were authorized to lay out, according to such plan as they shall or may agree upon and determine, regular streets or wharves in the Hudson and East rivers, and from time to time length en and extend the same, and to direct piers to be sunk in front of such streets or wharves in such manner and at such times, and as far into the rivers as the Common Council might, in their discretion, think necessary or proper.

By an act passed April 2, 1803, it was enacted that the Common Council shall have full power and authority to make and vary all such by-laws and ordinances as they shall from time to time deem necessary and proper for causing all ground in the city adjoining to Hudson's river or to the East river or Sound to be filled up so far into the said rivers respectively as they shall from time to time deem expedient for promoting the health of the city, and also to fill up, alter or enlarge any of the public slips within the city at such time and in such way and manner as they shall deem proper.

By an act passed April 2, 1806, this act was re-enacted and made perpetual, declared to be a public act, and to be construed favorably to the corporation, and so as most effectually to promote good order and the better government of the city.

By an act passed April 9, 1813, all the provisions of the acts referred to were re-enacted and continue to be and are in full force and effect.

That the Corporation might be enabled more effectually and exclusively to exercise the right to control and direct all things relating to the construction and arrangement of the wharves, piers and slips within the limits of the city, the State has, by various grants bestowed upon her all the uncultivated, under water beyond low water mark around Manhattan Island (Chapter 115, Laws of 1807; chapter 58, Laws of 1826; chapter 285, Laws of 1852); and by many other acts has sanctioned and affirmed various ordinances in laying out and extending streets into the rivers, and given to her the entire discretion as to such laying out or extending.

If the powers vested in the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty by the charters were of doubtful validity, there can be none as to the right and power of the Legislature; and as they have affirmed in the Corporation the sole and exclusive right, power and authority of regulating, constructing or directing to be constructed all wharves and piers, and of extending them into the rivers, when, where and as far as the Common Council might judge proper and necessary, and of laying out, making, altering, enlarging or filling up of any and all slips within the limits and jurisdiction of the city, the exercise of these rights cannot be denied or lawfully questioned.

The powers given and affirmed were not special or confined to any particular by-law or ordinance, or to its exercise and application in any particular or special case. They were continuing powers and rights running with the existence of the Corporation, and extending over the whole limits of the city. These rights, franchises and grants are beyond the recall, alteration or repeal of or by the Legislature, and their exercise can only be controlled or checked under and by the power and authority of the federal constitution.

The jurisdiction of the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty is co-extensive with the limits of the city.

These limits are defined and declared in the second section of the Montgomery charter as follows:—

2. And we do further, of our especial grace, certain knowledge and mere motion, for us, our heirs and successors, give, grant, order and appoint that the said city of New York and the compass, precincts, bounds, liberties and jurisdiction of the same do reach, extend and stretch forth, and shall and may reach, extend and stretch forth, as well in length as in breadth and circuit, in and through the limits and boundaries following, to wit:—To begin at the river, creek or run of water called Spuyten Duyvil, over which King's bridge is built, where the said river or creek empties itself into the North river, on Westchester side thereof, at low water mark, and so to run along the said river, creek or run on Westchester side at low water mark into the East river or Sound, and from thence to cross over to Nassau Island to low water mark there, including Great Barn Island, Little Barn Island and Manning's Island, and from thence along Nassau Island shore at low water mark unto the south side of Red Hook, and from thence to run a line across the North river so as to include Milton Island, Bedloe's Island, Bucking Island and the Oyster Island, to low water mark on the west side of the North river, or so far as the limits of our said province extend, and so to run up the west side of the said river at low water mark, or along the limits of our said province, until it comes directly opposite to the first mentioned river or creek, and thence to the place where the said boundaries first began.

The limits and boundaries of the county of New York are defined in Part 1, Chap. 2, Title 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 2 of the Revised Statutes in the same language employed in the charter, except that instead of the words "limits of our said province" there are used the words "bounds of the State."

Title 6 of the above chapter is as follows:—

"The city of New York contains all that part of this State comprehended within the bounds of the county of New York," so that the limits and bounds of the city are by acts of the Legislature identical with and the same as described in the charter, and must and do extend to low water mark upon the Westchester side of the Harlem river, and to low water mark on Nassau or Long Island.

Wherever that line of low water mark existed on the 13th day of January, 1730, there the limits, bounds and jurisdiction of the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty now extend, and cannot be changed unless by the consent of the Commonalty of this city.

The Legislature cannot change it by any act specifying the boundaries of towns or cities to be upon or to the Harlem or East river, for by all principles of common law such boundaries reach only to the natural high water mark. She has not attempted to change them in affixing the boundaries of the different counties of the State, for she has bounded Westchester, Queens, Kings and Richmond counties upon the boundaries of the city and county of New York.

It cannot be lawfully assumed that the grant of lands to low low water mark and authority by the Legislature to fill up such lands and erect wharves thereon extends such boundaries to the water, for the line of low water can only be changed by gradual and imperceptible accretions from the alluvium of the rivers from their retirement or washing away by them of the land. No artificial or sudden accretions or filtings can change or destroy the boundary line of low water mark.

Many wharves and piers have been erected along the East river far outside the low water mark, and are claimed to have been erected under the authority of special acts of the Legislature.

The State, as the sovereign owner of the soil under navigable waters, may bestow upon such as she elects the fee of soil below low water mark, but she does not thereby alter or change the jurisdiction. She may authorize the construction of wharves upon and over her property, but such authority must be in subordination to the rights and powers of the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the city, and cannot be exercised until the consent of the Common Council is first obtained.

Your committee are aware that it has been claimed that the boundary of this city extends only to where the waters of the Harlem and East river now reach at low water on the Westchester side or Nassau Island, and that such boundary has been, or may be, changed with every extension of the wharves or piers along those shores, and that such claim has the support of two judicial decisions—one in the case of Udall vs. The Trustees of Brooklyn, and the other in the case of Stryker vs. The Mayor, Aldermen, &c., 19 Johnson's Rep., pages 175 and 179. These decisions are both founded upon an act passed March 7, 1798, and, it is believed, cannot be sustained.

In this act the Legislature assumed to declare and fix the limits and bounds of the county of New York "at low water mark, wherever the same now is, or hereafter may be," and the court was of the opinion that as the waters of the East river could not and did not reach beyond the wharves and piers erected in the river, the line of low water mark, and consequently the limits and bounds of the city extended only to such wharves and piers.

The act of March 7, 1798, was repealed in 1824, subsequent to these decisions, and the limits and bounds of the city then declared by the Legislature to be where fixed by the charter.

So far as your committee have been able to discover, all the wharves, piers and slips adjoining Manhattan and the several islands included in the limits of the city, have been constructed by or with the assent of the Common Council, and under their direction or supervision. They are, therefore, in conformity with law. But with few exceptions those upon the Westchester side of Harlem river, and those on Nassau or Long Island, below low water mark, have been constructed without the assent, direction or approval of the Common Council, and they are, therefore, not in conformity with law.

Your committee recommend, for your most earnest consideration, the importance of taking such action as may in your judgment seem necessary to maintain the rights of this Corporation, and compel their observance by all parties, for if those rights are permitted to be encroached upon and disregarded, it will be found ere long that the trade and commerce of this city has departed from us and has been gathered within the control of our more active and ambitious neighbors.

PETER MITCHELL, } Committee
P. I. A. BOOLE, } on Wharves,
JOHN OTTIWELL, } Piers and Slips.

THE HARBOR DEFENCES—APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS.

In pursuance of the ordinance on the harbor defences, the Board proceeded to elect five Commissioners for the harbor defences of New York.

The President named Aldermen McCool and Froment as tellers.

The ballot was then taken, with the following result:—

Alderman Henry	12	Alderman Mitchell	11
Alderman Hardy	13	Alderman Boole	12
Alderman Ottiwell	11	Alderman McCool	2
Alderman Masterson	2	Alderman Froment	2
Alderman Fox	1		

The President announced that Aldermen Henry, Hardy, Mitchell, Ottiwell and Boole were appointed as such commissioners.

THE FIRE MARSHAL'S SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT.

Fire Marshal Baker sent in his semi-annual report, in which he submits an ordinance to regulate the sale and storage of rock or earth, oils, &c. He shows that the aggregate number of fires for the half year ending the 30th of November, 1862, is 148, being 35 less than during the previous six months, and the same as in the corresponding six months of the previous year. The alleged losses amount to $629,584, the insurance is $1,798,985; the amount paid by the underwriters $486,675. This is less than was paid by the insurance companies during the corresponding six months of the previous year, and $279,194 less than was paid during the previous half year. He also sets forth the various causes of fire, and shows that the number of deaths caused by fires in buildings and by carelessness during the period which his report embraces amounts to twenty eight. The report is elaborate and carefully compiled.

By a statement from the Finance Department it appears that the balance in the city treasury on February 21 was $1,393,397 88.

THE VANDERBILT PIER.

The Board concurred in the resolution to repeal the privilege granted to Cornelius Vanderbilt in 1853, to widen their pier No. 1 North river, notwithstanding that some of the members had been served with legal process restraining them from voting upon the matter. Those who were scrupulous upon the subject were excused from voting.

Alderman BOOLE said the process was a farce, and that the Common Council could not be prevented by any legal authority from voting. The courts had so decided.

THE CONTINUATION OF THE AID TO FAMILIES OF VOLUNTEERS.

The ordinance, as amended by the Councilmen, to provide for the continuation of the aid ($500,000) heretofore granted to the families of volunteers was called up. The Councilmen made some few amendments, but this Board adhered to their former action, and the President appointed Aldermen McCool, Mitchell and Boole as a committee of three to confer with the Councilmen on the subject.

The Board then took a recess until a quarter to five o'clock.

At a quarter to five o'clock the Board reassembled.

EVENING SESSION.

Alderman BOOLE reported that the Committee of Conference to ask the Board of Councilmen to rescind their action on the ordinance respecting the continuation of the pay to volunteers had met with them, and that the Councilmen had consented to do so.

Alderman BOOLE then offered a long ordinance, with some few amendments, as a substitute for the former ordinance, already published.

Alderman HALL moved to amend the eleventh section, which provided to give relief to the sisters of volunteers. This was lost.

Alderman HARDY moved as an amendment, that the appointment of assistant visitors be vested in the Committee of the Wards instead of the Comptroller. Lost.

President WALSH, having taken the floor, moved an amendment to section eight, by providing that the families of volunteers from Brooklyn who come to reside in New York should be included as participants in the relief fund. If men from Brooklyn enlisted in this city, and the city of New York had the credit of contributing so many men to the war, he considered that the families of those men, when they come to reside here, were entitled to relief.

Aldermen OTTIWELL and BOOLE opposed this amendment, as they thought this city had enough to do to provide for the families of the volunteers of New York.

The amendment was lost and the section adopted.

The ordinance as amended was adopted, and, on motion of Alderman BOOLE, immediately sent to the Board of Councilmen.

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

The Family Aid Ordinance—The Harbor Defence Commission—Relief Afforded to the Families of Volunteers—Gaugers of Liquors, Oils, &c.—Corporation Advertising—The Estates of Deceased Soldiers, &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.

A Committee of Conference—consisting of Councilmen Hayes, Gross and Murray—was appointed to confer with a similar committee from the Board of Aldermen in reference to the action to be taken by the two Boards on the ordinance for the relief of the families of volunteers.

The committee reported, on their return, that they had agreed to recede from the amendments made to the ordinance at the last meeting of the Board. A resolution was adopted to that effect, and the ordinance in its original form was returned to the Aldermen to be amended.

A petition was presented from the New York and Harlem Railroad Company asking the Board to rescind their action by which the Street Commissioner was directed to remove all the switches, turnouts and rails of the company within the city limits not especially granted in their charter. Referred to the Committee on Railroads.

The following members of the Board were by ballot elected members of the Harbor Defence Commission:—Messrs. Jones, Hayes, Brice, Houghtalin and Repper.

The semi-annual report of Alfred E. Baker, the Fire Marshal, was received, and in it he called particular attention to the urgent necessity for an ordinance to regulate the sale and storage of petroleum and other oils. Received and ordered on file.

A communication was received from the Comptroller containing the following statement of the disbursements made to the families of volunteers during the fortnight ending on the 21st:—

Dis.	Families.	Adults.	Children.	Total.	Amount.
Fourth	4,267	4,267	4,914	9,181	$15,581
Fifth	4,347	4,279	5,812	10,091	18,269
Sixth	2,435	2,543	3,228	5,571	9,923
Seventh	4,860	4,854	7,303	12,157	22,078
Total	15,909	15,743	21,257	37,000	$65,851

The Board adopted an ordinance directing that no person not a resident of this city should be employed as a gauger of oils, liquors, &c., within the city limits.

Councilman WEBSTER offered a resolution that the Comptroller be directed to inform the Board what amount of money was paid during the year 1862 to each of the Corporation papers for city and county advertising, publishing the proceedings of the Common Council and the advertising of the several Executive departments. Adopted.

The Board concurred with the Board of Aldermen in directing the appointment of a special agent, at an annual salary of $2,000, in the office of the Public Administrator, to take charge of and settle the estates of deceased soldiers from this city.

The Board concurred with the Board of Aldermen in adopting the family aid ordinance as amended by that Board.

The Board then adjourned until next Monday evening, at four o'clock.

Arrivals and Departures.

ARRIVALS.

LIVERPOOL—Steamship Nova Scotian, at Portland—Miss Proctor, three Misses and two Masters Merchauer, Mrs Fiset and son, Mrs Stockwell, Capt Hammond, lady, infant and nurse; Lieut Gaussen, Lieut Dundas, Ensign Greame, Capt Fuller, Messrs Gordon, Stephen, L'Perance, Whitehead, Ayres, Gordon, Robb, Page, Tucker, Soule, Stockwell, Denison, Page—and 107 in the steerage.

PORT ROYAL—Steamship Augusta Dismore—E R Fuller, A J Insley, L Simeon, Max Martina, M Jenks, M Servican, W G Uptergrove, W B Hutchins, Lieut Col Wm H McNary, W G Brooks, Lieut James F Myers, S F Savage, Dr Curtis, Major Stackpole, Walter Adams, A Parrish, E H Faucon, J K Stimson, Franklin A Rich, Stewart P Fraser, S R Eaton, Lieut Parkins, Colonel John C Bodge, R E Sprague, Samuel Corse, C D Christian, John M Yates, Henry P Wilsey, Frank P Day, John Starsfuld, August Smith, Jas Butler, A Horley, Miss O'Brine.

DEPARTURES.

NEW ORLEANS—Steamship George Washington—Joseph Heely, W A Allen, Miss Doran, Madame Doran, Fredk Hagner, C V Woodruff, Goodwin Watson, Wm Guay, O Morel, wife and three children; Wm H Gott, Lieut Wallace, J A McCombies, Nathaniel L Hicks, George I Howes, Jeremiah Marsh, George Chapin, George C Davis, Paul Blanck, Gerald Farrell, Miss Annie Farrell, Mrs Col G H Currie, Mrs Fanni, W H Barton, John H Wilson, D Kerraghan, E S Barber, Thomas V Oliver, J F Marsa, F M Converse and P C Woodruff.

HAVANA—Steamship Eagle.—Mr Belmont, lady, child and two servants; J R Fassett, Jr., and lady; Mrs E C Carasco, J Aron, J D Urquilla, J Labatas, C Gerald, L Steelman, E C Ribeiro, A C Sturtivant, W Whitehead, A Joseph, A d'Orvilie, R A Decker, J Polo, Master Widel Baile, E L Campos, I. Wanklee, Mrs Adel Valle and maid, R Barbaud, E Lavin, Mrs T Wassner, and H C Hall.

INTERESTING FROM BERMUDA.

Burial of French Sailors on the Island—Fruits of the Mexican Expedition—Movements of Rebel Vessels, &c., &c.

We have Bermuda papers to the 17th of February, from which we extract the following:—

[From the Royal Gazette, Feb. 10.]

On the 5th inst. were buried at Ports' Island two men who died at the Royal Naval Hospital, Ireland Island, and who had been left there by the frigate Le Vauban on her departure for France.

The French Vice Consul, having had a sailboat placed at his disposal for the purpose by Captain Glass, C. B., R. N., the Naval Superintendent, accompanied by Captains Cambiaggio and Romarony and Mr. Mayer, repaired soon after noon to Ports' Island, where he was met by the crews of the French merchant vessels Carmen and Conception, who were anxious to pay the last tribute of respect to the remains of their countrymen who had died far from their homes.

At two o'clock one of her Majesty's gunboats arrived at the island, having in tow two launches, one containing the bodies of the two persons alluded to above, and the other a firing party of marines belonging to her Majesty's steamship Ariadne, all under the command of Lieutenant Roys, of that vessel. Each coffin was covered with a French flag. The French seamen asked permission to carry the remains of their countrymen to their graves, which permission was kindly granted them by the officer in charge. The graves were soon reached, and the bodies gently placed in their last resting places by rough hands, influenced, however, by kind hearts and generous feelings.

The burial service was performed by the Rev. Mr. Holden, the two unfortunate men having belonged to the Roman Catholic Church.

The last prayers over the graves of the departed were followed by a treble firing of musketry. And all was over. The ceremony was a touching one. Once more we saw British and French subjects friendly united in a community of feeling which reminded us of the memorable days of the glorious Crimean war, thus showing that the old enmity no longer prevails, and has been replaced by the sincerest cordiality.

We cannot close these few remarks without expressing our feelings of utmost respect and gratitude towards the noble admiral who ordered the military honors to be rendered to the poor, humble French soldiers. Honor to him, honor to England, that country of the true hearted.

Let us present also our best thanks to the surgeons of the Royal Naval Hospital who, could the deceased have been saved and had not the Lord decided it otherwise, would certainly have done so, and whose kindness has diminished the sufferings of their last moments.

ENGLISH ACCOUNTS OF MEXICAN AFFAIRS.

[From the Royal Gazette, Feb. 17.]

His Imperial Majesty's steam frigate Albatros (4), Captain Maudet, with one hundred and fifty men and forty invalids, arrived here on Sunday last, having left Vera Cruz on the 29th of January and Havana on the 8th inst. She came here on account of injuries received in a gale of wind three hundred miles from Bermuda. She leaks badly, and will remain a week to effect her repairs. She has on board the officers of his Imperial Majesty's gunboat Lance, which vessel was burned inside the bar at Vera Cruz, not being able to float her out.

The Albatros left two French ships-of-war at Havana.

Spoke her Majesty's ship Medea.

Captain Maudet was Governor of Tampico for one month.

He reports that ere his departure from Vera Cruz the French had not reached Puebla, but had halted within about thirty miles of that place to secure a sufficient quantity of supplies, &c. General Forey, having received stores, &c., was ready to march.

The sanitary state of the troops and of the navy was very good. There seems to be no doubt entertained that Mexico will eventually be captured by the French.

MOVEMENTS OF PRIVATEERS.

THE ALABAMA.

It is now known to be a fact that it was the Confederate ship-of-war Alabama that sunk the federal ship-of-war Hatteras off Galveston on the 11th of January. The Alabama had arrived at Port Royal, Jamaica, and landed one hundred and upwards of officers and men, saved from the Hatteras. The Alabama had received one shot under the counter. In thirty-six hours, however, she obtained the necessary repairs and a supply of coal, and was again at sea in search of further adventures.

THE FLORIDA.

The Confederate ship of-war Florida has, it is said, captured and destroyed nine additional federal merchantmen. At the latest accounts she had coaled at Nassau, and had sailed again on a cruise. There was a federal vessel-of-war at Stirrup Cay, which must have seen the Florida going to Nassau, but did not think it prudent to cross her house. Captain Maffit took his vessel into the harbor of Nassau without a pilot.

Several of the captains of the vessels captured by the Florida have published very complimentary cards of thanks to Captain Maffit for his kindness to them whilst on board his vessel.

Tragical Affair in Stanton Street—Mysterious Shooting Case.

A tragical affair, involving the death of a young man named Henry Foster, occurred in Stanton, near Columbia street, on Wednesday night. Deceased, it appeared, lived at No. 251 Stanton street with his brother, and was a shoe cutter by trade. On the evening in question he returned home about half-past ten o'clock, and throwing himself on a sofa, said he was shot. He was bleeding freely from the abdomen, and upon examination it was found that there were no less than three distinct wounds, all within a diameter of six inches. Drs. Graef and Heverin were called upon to administer to the wants of the wounded man, and at once pronounced the case hopeless. They questioned Foster as to the manner in which he came to his wounding, but were unable to elicit anything beyond the fact of his having been shot by some person unknown. Deceased appeared to be very uncommunicative on the subject, and the impression left upon the minds of the physicians was, that he knew more about the affair than he wished to make public. Officer Van Tassell, of the Eleventh precinct, upon whose beat the affray is supposed to have occurred, visited the wounded man soon after the arrival of the doctors, and questioned Foster very closely upon the subject of the shooting, but was unable to gain any information beyond the fact that the fracas occurred in Stanton street, near Columbia. As in the case of the physicians, the policeman was led to believe that the wounded man was anxious to conceal the circumstances attending the fracas. The relatives and friends appeared to be ignorant of the causes which led to the trouble, and did not know who to suspect of the crime. During the night the patient, who appeared to retain his senses to the last, commenced to sink rapidly, and at half-past eleven o'clock the following morning he died from the effects of the wounds. Coroner Wildey was duly notified of the affair, and was engaged yesterday afternoon in investigating the case; but up to last evening the shooting was still involved in mystery.

Our reporter called at the late residence of the deceased yesterday afternoon for the purpose of ascertaining some additional facts in relation to the affair, when he was informed that deceased was in company with his younger brother about half an hour before he was shot. They parted company, it appears, near their residence, the younger brother going on an errand to a shoemaker's in the neighborhood, and the deceased going in the direction of Columbia street. What transpired in the half hour's interval which occurred between the parting of the brothers and their meeting again is wrapped in mystery; but the Coroner's investigation to-day will probably tend to throw some light upon the matter. One of the balls, which was extracted by Dr. Heverin, was evidently fired from a large sized revolver or Derringer—most probably the latter. The remaining bullets will be extracted to-day by Dr. Bouton, who has been ordered to make a post mortem examination of the body.

The affair created considerable excitement among the residents in the neighborhood, and all sorts of stories were afloat in regard to the origin of the difficulty. The locality where Foster is supposed to have been shot is very thickly populated, and that a shooting affray could occur there at such an early hour in the evening without the knowledge of the inhabitants seems almost incredible.

Coroners' Inquests.

A CHILD STARVED TO DEATH.—Coroner Rannay held an inquest yesterday at No. 53 West Nineteenth street upon the body of a child seven years old, named Margaret O'Niel, who died from neglect and starvation. The parents of deceased it appeared were very intemperate in their habits, and often left their children for days together without any food or clothing to protect them against the inclemency of the weather. Dr. S. B. McLeod who had his attention called to the case by some of the neighbors, gave it as his opinion that death was caused for want of proper nourishment, and the jury rendered a verdict accordingly. The parents were both absent during the inquest, no one knew where.

AN EX-POLICEMAN KILLED BY A FALL.—William H. Kidney, an ex-policeman of the Fifth precinct, was killed on Wednesday night by falling into the area way of No. 120 Varick street. Deceased resided at No. 84 Bedford street, where he leaves a wife and several children unprovided for. Coroner Wildey held an inquest.

Police Intelligence.

A COLORED GENTLEMAN ON A SPREE.—John P. Payne, a negro, in the employment of Edwin Heitslander, of No. 96 Jane street, was arrested yesterday on charge of stealing a pair of horses, valued at $360, the property of his master. The prisoner, it appears, took it into his head to go sleigh riding, and, getting up in the night, hitched up his employer's team, and started on a regular spree. On his way to High Bridge he stopped at every hotel on the road, and got so intoxicated that he was unable to manage the horses. The consequence was that he had a smash up, breaking the sleigh all to pieces and injuring both of the horses. When brought before Justice Quackenbush Payne pleaded drunkenness in extenuation of his offence; but the magistrate was not disposed to encourage intemperance, and committed him for trial in default of bail.

Custom House Frauds.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

HARLEM, Feb. 25, 1863.

Under this head there are being circulated in the public prints slanders of a very serious nature against the character of Mr. Eels. They are the insidious attacks of a known enemy for a specific object. Mr. Eels has been lying very low with typhoid fever for the last five weeks; consequently knows nothing of these attacks. If he recovers, it is presumed he will be perfectly competent to defend himself. If he should not recover, his children have a right to inherit an unsullied name. A suspension of opinion from a generous public is respectfully requested by

ONE OF MANY FRIENDS.

Military Affairs.

The order of the War Department dismissing Dr. Edward S. Hoffman from the service, for alleged improper motives in tendering his resignation, has been revoked, and he has been restored to his original rank and position as surgeon of the Ninetieth regiment New York State Volunteers, now at Key West.

MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.

Married.

CRUGER—RUSSEL.—On Wednesday, February 25, by Rev. E. F. Hatfield, D. D., JOHN W. CRUGER to Miss FRANCES EUGENIA RUSSEL, all of this city. No cards.

FAIRHURST—WEAVER.—On Wednesday, February 25, by the Rev. Thos. D. Anderson, at his residence, No. 15 Livingston place, Mr. ALFRED FAIRHURST to Miss JOSEPHINE WEAVER, both of this city.

HASSLER—MANNING.—At the residence of the bride's father, by the Rev. F. J. Sawyer, D. D., J. J. SCHOO HASSLER, U. S. A., grandson of the late F. R. Hassler, Superintendant of the United States Coast Survey, to Miss IDA, daughter of Alpha Manning, Esq., of this city. No cards.

Washington and Virginia papers please copy.

HAYES—BEDELL.—At the residence of the bride's parents, on Thursday, February 26, by the Rev. Theo. L. Cuyler, D. D., Mr. JAMES K. HAYES to ADDIE, only daughter of C. A. Bedell, Esq., all of Brooklyn. No cards.

KOERNER—LEON.—On Wednesday, February 25, by the Rev. M. R. Delaw, assisted by the Rev. S. M. Isaacs, S. KOERNER, of Texas, to JULIA, eldest daughter of J. Leon, of this city.

Baltimore and California papers please copy.

NAYLOR—HAVEN.—On Wednesday, February 25, by the Rev. F. C. Ewer, at Christ church, PETER NAYLOR, Jr., of this city, and ELLEN W. HAVEN, of the city of San Francisco.

San Francisco papers please copy.

STILLMAN—WELLS.—At Shanghae, China, on Sunday, September 7, 1862, by Rev. J. M. W. Farnham, Mr THOMAS W. STILLMAN, late of New York, and Miss SARAH WELLS, of Glenn's Falls.

SHERMAN—DAVIS.—At the St. Paul Methodist Episcopal church, on Wednesday, February 25, by the Rev. H. B. Ridgeway, B. LEWIS SHERMAN to BALSORA L., daughter of Lewis R. Davis.

Died.

BELL.—In Williamsburg, on Wednesday, February 25, Mrs. MARY BELL, widow of George Bell, in the 76th year of her age.

The friends are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of her son-in-law, N. Barbor, 39 Rush street, this (Friday) afternoon, at two o'clock.

BRYAN.—On Wednesday afternoon, February 25, OLIVER CORNUTIER, youngest son of Oliver Bryan, aged 4 years, and 4 months.

The funeral will take place from No. 16 East Thirty-seventh street, at 1 o'clock, this (Friday) afternoon. The friends of the family are invited to attend.

New Haven papers please copy.

BOGART.—On Thursday, February 26, of membraneous croup, HAROLD DE ANGELIS, only child of Richard W. and Mary De A. Bogart, aged 1 year, 9 months and 26 days.

The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral, without further invitation, from the residence of his parents, 29 West Forty-sixth street, on Saturday afternoon, at two o'clock.

BOOTH.—In Hospital at Baltimore, JOSEPH W., son of Rev. W. H. and E. C. Booth, aged 15 years and 9 months.

The funeral will take place on Saturday, from 153 York street, Brooklyn.

BRADY.—On Wednesday, February 25, in the 85th year of his age, THOMAS BRADY, Sr., a native of the parish of Tallonstown, county Louth, Ireland.

The funeral will take place from the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Mathews, No. 173 Elizabeth street, this (Friday) afternoon, at two o'clock. His friends are requested to attend.

CONNOLLY.—Suddenly, on Thursday, February 26, at five o'clock, JAMES CONNOLLY, aged 14 years.

The funeral will take place from the residence of his uncle, Michael Hughes, No. 157 East Twenty-fourth street, on Saturday afternoon, at two o'clock. His remains will be taken to Calvary Cemetery. The friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend.

CORNELL.—On Tuesday, February 24, STEPHEN CORNELL, aged 74 years.

Long Island and New Jersey papers please copy.

CULLEN.—On Tuesday, February 24, of consumption, THOMAS K. CULLEN, long a resident of this city, in the 37th year of his age.

The funeral will take place from his late residence, this (Friday) afternoon, at one o'clock. The friends and relatives are requested to attend without further notice. The remains will be taken to Calvary Cemetery for interment.

CUSHMAN.—On Thursday morning, February 26, of scarlet fever, JENNIE R., youngest child of Mrs. Susan M. Cushman, aged 2 years and 2 months.

The friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of her mother, No. 52 East Sixteenth street, this (Friday) afternoon, at two o'clock.

DONOVAN.—On Thursday morning, February 26, HENRY G. DONOVAN, a native of Cork, Ireland, aged 55 years.

The funeral will take place from the New York Eye Infirmary, corner of Thirteenth street and Second avenue, this (Friday) morning at half past ten o'clock.

Cork, Halifax (N. S.) and Albany (N. Y.) papers please copy.

EVERSON.—At Palmyra, N. Y., on Sunday, February 22, suddenly, BRUCE EVERSON, son of the late Bruce Everson, and formerly resident of New York, aged 20 years.

FLOYD.—On Tuesday, February 24, JENNIE, daughter of Jane H. and the late Captain George W. Floyd, in the 22d year of her age.

The funeral will take place from the residence of her mother, 471 Pacific street, Brooklyn, second door above Powers street, this (Friday) afternoon at 2 o'clock. The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend without further notice.

Buffalo papers please copy.

GEARY.—In Brooklyn, on Thursday, February 26, MARGARET, wife of Timothy O. Geary, in the 47th year of her age.

The friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, on Saturday afternoon, at two o'clock, from No. 294 Sackett street.

HICKS.—In Brooklyn, on Wednesday, February 25, GEORGE HICKS in the 45th year of his age.

The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral, this (Friday) afternoon, at three o'clock, from his late residence, No. 305 Degraw street, Brooklyn.

HUGHES.—In Jersey City, on Tuesday, February 24, ELIZABETH, widow of Thomas Hughes, aged 66 years 11 months and 14 days.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, without further invitation, from her late residence, No. 248 South street, Jersey City, this (Friday) afternoon, at two o'clock.

Gloucester (England) and California papers please copy.

KELLY.—On Thursday, February 26, CHARLES EDMOND KELLY, son of Patrick and Ann Kelly, aged 1 year, 11 months and 1 day.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, this (Friday) afternoon, from the residence of his parents, No. 80 Henry street, without further invitation.

New London (Conn.) and California papers please copy.

LANE.—At Litchfield, Conn., on Thursday, February 26, JOHN STEARNS LANE, only son of Adolphus Lane, in the 38th year of his age.

The relatives and friends of the family, and of his late father-in-law, Charles Merle, are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of his father, 219 Tenth street, on Saturday afternoon, at four o'clock, without further invitation.

LYALL.—At her residence, 395 Hud