NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OFFICE N. W. CORNER OF FULTON AND NASSAU STS.

Volume XXVIII.....No. 77

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Brooklyn.—Italian Opera—La Traviata.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—Enchantress.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway.—School for Scandal.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway.—Dombey and Son—Wanted One Thousand Milliners.

LAURA KEENE'S THEATRE, Broadway.—Peg Woffington.

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—Chevalier de Maison Rouge—Beacon of Death—Bonny Fish Wife.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery—Massaniello—Nick of the Woods.

BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway.—Minnie Warren, Com. Nutt, Living Hippopotamus, &c., at all hours—Roll of the Drum—Afternoon and Evening.

BRYANTS' MINSTRELS, Mechanics' Hall, 472 Broadway.—Ethiopian Songs, Burlesques, Dances, &c.—How Are You, Greenbacks?

WOOD'S MINSTREL HALL, 514 Broadway.—Ethiopian Songs, Dances, &c.—Running the Blockade.

HOPE CHAPEL, 720 Broadway—MacEvor's Hibernicon; or, A Tour in Ireland.

THE NEW IDEA, 485 Broadway.—Songs, Burlesques, Ballets, &c.

BROADWAY MENAGERIE, Broadway.—Living Wild Animals—Performing Elephants—Comic Mules, &c.

AMERICAN THEATRE, No. 444 Broadway.—Ballets, Pantomimes, Burlesques, &c.

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

HOOLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—Ethiopian Songs, Dances, Burlesques, &c.

New York, Thursday, March 19, 1863.

ADVERTISEMENTS FOR THE COUNTRY.

Advertisements for the Weekly Herald must be handed in before ten o'clock every Wednesday evening. Its circulation among the enterprising mechanics, farmers, merchants, manufacturers and gentlemen throughout the country is increasing very rapidly. Advertisements inserted in the Weekly Herald will thus be seen by a large portion of the live people of the United States.

THE SITUATION.

News of much importance, if it be true, reaches us from Fortress Monroe, based upon the statements of rebel newspapers at Richmond, to the effect that the fleet of Admiral Farragut has been repulsed by the rebels at Port Hudson, the frigate Mississippi burned and the flagship Hartford disabled. It would appear from the account of this affair, that our land forces were not engaged, and it may have been merely a naval reconnoissance, attended probably with some disaster, which has been considerably exaggerated at the rebel sources of information—the only ones from which we derive any intelligence so far. We give to-day a map of the locality and sketches of the vessels engaged.

Despatches from Cairo state that the report of the capture of Yazoo City is premature. The conviction, however, exists there that a decisive collision has occurred on the Yazoo.

A very spirited battle took place on the Blackwater on Tuesday morning. General Peck despatched the Eleventh Pennsylvania cavalry and two sections of the Seventh Massachusetts battery to attack the enemy's intrenchments, commanded by General Jenkins, of South Carolina, opposite Franklin. The fight commenced at nine o'clock A. M., and was carried on briskly for an hour. Two separate cavalry charges were made on the fortifications. These were found to be literally lined with infantry, who poured a deadly fire into our ranks, wounding many in the first charge, which was made by Major Stratton, who was wounded in the shoulder. The second charge was conducted by Major Cornog, who led his men up to the fortifications to try and jump the ditch, but the move was soon found to be impracticable. The enemy opposed a heavy force of infantry and cavalry to the right and left of our position, in order to try and outflank our troops, but without success. The fight had not ended when our correspondent left the field. The enemy's reinforcements were coming up to defend the pass.

The rebels have recently been considerably reinforced from Petersburg, and a battle had been expected in that quarter. They made an attack on Newbern, N. C., last Friday, but were repulsed. The attack was most likely directed by General D. H. Hill, who has just been placed in command of the rebel troops in North Carolina.

Some skirmishing is going on upon the Rappahannock. On Monday a rebel camp was discovered in the vicinity of Hartwood church, near Stafford Court House, and a force of cavalry and artillery was sent in that direction to reconnoitre. Heavy firing was heard in that direction on Tuesday, which would indicate that a fight was going on. A body of General Averill's cavalry had a brush with the enemy near Kelley's Ford, five miles above Falmouth, capturing twenty-five of them. A short distance from the shore General Averill's command encountered the rebel cavalry under Stuart and Fitzhugh Lee, who had hastened from Culpepper to prevent our passage. They made some dashing charges upon our troops, who repulsed and in turn charged them with fatal effect, using sabres only in the conflict. The battle lasted five hours, and was a series of charges and hand to hand conflicts, resulting in the falling back of the enemy. The forces were about two thousand on each side.

By the arrival of the supply steamer Union, from Galveston and other points on the Gulf, we learn that the rebels have erected some formidable batteries at Galveston, which are mounted with the guns taken off the Harriet Lane and Westfield. Three batteries are on the island on which the city is located, while Pelican Island is fortified equally strong. Our fleet, which consists of four gunboats and the frigate Brooklyn approach to within a mile and a half of the town, where they anchor, and occasionally throw shells into the town and forts; but they cannot bring their broadsides to bear, and have to operate exclusively with their rifled pivot guns. On the 12th ult. the Brooklyn steamed up to easy range of Pelican Island, and threw a number of shells into the fort, shooting down the flagstaff, and on the 24th she sent a few shells into the town and fired the city in three different places, which was soon put out. The Brooklyn had to withdraw, however, as the forts began to send shot from their fifteen-inch rifles, one of which cut her rigging.

It has been ascertained from deserters from the rebels, who came off to our fleet from Mobile a few days since, that an attempt was made by Admiral Buchanan, with four steamers and a ram, about four weeks ago, to attack our vessels at midwatch, and was only prevented by one of his vessels running on a snag. The attempt, however, is to be made again, and we trust that, our fleet being now forewarned, will be ready for the emergency. Five rebel gunboats are being constructed at Selma, Ala., two of which are now on their way to Mobile.

The rebel privateers are still moving in the Gulf. Captain Ames, of the bark Mollie Metcalf, reports when at St. Thomas, that the bark Sarah A. Nichols, from Buenos Ayres for Cuba, was chased into port by the rebel privateer Florida. The authorities at St. Thomas detained the Florida twenty-four hours after the bark sailed.

The highly important intelligence of the capture of the City of Mexico by the French army is announced in the Richmond papers of the 17th instant, and probably reached Richmond on the 16th inst. by telegraph from Houston, Texas, by way of Port Hudson, on the Mississippi; having come to Houston across the Rio Grande by some of the trains that are now continually passing to and from Mexico across the Rio Grande.

Mexico was splendidly defended, and unless the French reduced Puebla on their march to the capital—which they could hardly do without meeting a stubborn resistance—the capture of Mexico looks problematical. We give a fine map of the vicinity to-day.

THE LEGISLATURE.

In the State Senate yesterday petitions were presented from citizens of Manhattanville asking for the extension of the Croton water mains in that locality. A majority report was made in favor of holding our charter election at the same time as the general election. The Women's Medical College bill was ordered to a third reading. A bill to provide arms and equipments for the State militia was introduced. The State engineer sent in a communication recommending that an appropriation be made for the survey of the Hudson river, for the purpose of improving its navigation. Majority and minority reports were made by the committee having in charge the consideration of the question as to the disposition to be made of the lands donated to the State by Congress for the benefit of agricultural and mechanical education. The majority propose to distribute the benefits among various colleges; the minority report in favor of the People's College, at Havana, receiving the greater share of the donation.

In the Assembly the bill appropriating the surplus canal revenues was, after a long discussion on it, ordered to a third reading. The committee appointed to investigate the charges against Speaker Callicot held a meeting, made some preliminary arrangements, but took no testimony, and adjourned till next Tuesday. Several bills were passed by the Assembly; among them that for a Bureau of Military Statistics. The others were of only local interest. The special committee appointed by the last Legislature to investigate the matter of unclaimed deposits in the savings banks of the State are expected to make a report to-day, which will be quite interesting. They state that there remain in the banks a million dollars, for which no claimants have appeared in the last five years.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

A meeting of the Board of the Stock Exchange was held at the Board room of the company yesterday afternoon, at which Mr. Cyrus W. Field attended, and delivered an address on the past and future prospects of the Atlantic telegraph cable. Great interest was manifested in the proceedings; and it is evident that the Board are fully alive to the great importance of this work, and will take their own share in pushing on the accomplishment of this great enterprise.

At the meeting of the Board of Education last evening, a resolution to strike out a clause in the by-laws limiting the number of grammar schools in each ward to two for boys and two for girls, was referred to the Committee on By-Laws. A resolution was adopted authorizing the school officers of the Seventeenth ward to purchase the First street Presbyterian church, at $14,000, for a primary school. A motion to appoint military instructors in the schools, at $100 a year, was lost. No further business of moment transpired.

William W. Hoppin has declined the democratic and constitutional Union nominations for Governor of Rhode Island. The democrats have nominated in his place William C. Cozzens, who declined their nomination for Lieutenant Governor, and for the latter office they will probaly endorse Elisha R. Potter, the nominee of the constitutional Union party.

The New Jersey Legislature will adjourn tomorrow.

Hon. Ezekiel P. Walton, who has represented the First district of Vermont in Congress for six years, declines to be again a candidate.

The Union State Convention of Kentucky assembled yesterday in Louisville to nominate candidates for State officers.

The stock market was less active yesterday, and prices were generally rather lower. Governments were steady. Gold was dull all the morning, at 153⅝ a 153¾, but rose in the afternoon to 155, closing 154½ bid. Exchange closed 169 a 170. Money was very easy; call loans 5 a 6 per cent.

The cotton market was quite dull, and middlings were quoted as low as 80c. a 81c. yesterday. There was less doing in breadstuffs and provisions, prices of which generally tended downward. The grocery trade was depressed, with generally light sales reported. Whiskey was quiet at 45c. a 47c. There was a better inquiry for hay, hides, laths and tallow; but in the main buyers had any existing advantage. The inquiry for fish, fruit, hemp, leather and tobacco was limited. Mackerel fell off 25c. per bbl. Hops were rather more active, but drooping in price. Oils, metals and naval stores were dull and heavy, as were likewise seeds, spices and freights.

Copperhead Speech of Mr. Wall.—The speech, or lecture, of Mr. Wall, of Trenton, N. J., before the Young Men's Democratic Union Association in this city, on Tuesday evening last, is of the same impracticable nature as that of Toucey at Hartford. He is behind the age. He talks of peace, when there can be no peace, till one or other of the belligerents is vanquished. With such vast armies in the field confronting each other, peace is impossible. Mr. Wall proposes no remedy for disunion; on the contrary, he believes in separation. Let him seriously meditate upon the consequences of that, and then proclaim his thoughts to the world in another speech.

Another Campaign Against Gen. McClellan.—While the active work of a general advance against the armies of the rebellion is delayed on account of muddy roads, it seems that a new campaign against General McClellan is under way. Thus it appears that Hon. Ben Wade, of the War Committee of Congress, will soon bring out his report against McClellan, and a special diffusion committee of horse jockeys in this city are said to be engaged upon a killing brochure against McClellan. "Little Mac," however, appears to have the nine lives of a cat; for, after several killings, he has come to life again, and it is probable that he will even survive the killing report of Ben Wade and the killing brochure of the horse jockeys.

Most Important if True—Reported Capture of Mexico.

The Richmond papers of the 17th, received at Fortress Monroe yesterday, announce the capture of the city of Mexico by the French army. No date is assigned for the event. It is just possible that the Richmond authorities may be in possession of such news, received by way of Texas, and telegraphed from Houston to Port Hudson, and thence to the rebel capital; but its authenticity is, to say the least of it, doubtful.

General Forey's army left Orizaba for Puebla—a distance of forty miles—on the 17th, 21st and 23d of February; and it was understood that the Mexican forces were prepared to defend that position, in which case it would have required some time to reduce it. Still, it may be that the Mexicans did not stand to defend Puebla, and that the French occupied it without opposition, and marched thence on the capital—a distance of seventy-six miles—which would not have been so capable of defence.

It is, therefore, not altogether improbable that the news received by way of Richmond is authentic. Napoleon has declared his resolve that no terms of peace would be made except in the capital of Mexico, and it may be that his army is now in that position; but we are, for the present, inclined to doubt it.

A French Exposure of the Impostures of King Cotton.—A very able brochure, under the title of "An Address to King Cotton," has just been published by the well known French writer M. Eugene Pelletan. It exhibits an astonishingly correct appreciation for a foreigner of the issues involved in the rebellion, and disposes in a masterly manner of the pretexts and delusions by which it has been fomented. It scouts the idea of the North ever permitting foreign intervention, and says that if Europe wishes to bring about a speedy peace it must place the South beyond the pale of public opinion. "A moral blockade," continues the writer, "is necessary. One must turn aside and say to these rebels, I do not know you. You may win battles and shoot negroes; you may burn defenceless vessels; you may be able to accomplish all of which unbridled force is capable; you may do all this; but you cannot enlist the sympathies of a single honest man in Europe." It is impossible, M. Pelletan thinks, for the South to conquer. "It has to face a terrible enemy, one that strikes incessantly and destroys them in detail. That enemy is Time." This eloquent defence of our cause has been translated into English by Mr. Leander Starr, and can be had at the office of the *Messager Franco-Americain*, in Liberty street. We recommend all who are sensitive to foreign opinions in our regard to give it a careful perusal.

Theatrical.

WINTER GARDEN.

Mr. Dan Setchell appears at the Winter Garden this evening as Captain Cuttle, in "Dombey and Son," and Madame Vanderpanta in "One Thousand Milliners"—two of Burton's best parts—for the benefit of Mr. M. S. Davis, an ex-policeman, who went to the wars and was wounded while fighting for the Stars and Stripes. The performance ought to attract a crowded house. The object for which it is given certainly will.

WALLACK'S THEATRE.

Mr. Harry Isherwood, the accomplished scenic artist at Wallack's, takes his first benefit this evening. The play is "The School for Scandal," with its very strong cast—probably for the last time this season. Mr. Isherwood's good works are always before Wallack's audiences, and speak for themselves. The pleasant scene of a theatre jammed from parquet to dome will be expressly arranged by the public this evening for Mr. Isherwood's benefit.

LENNOX AND RAYMOND'S BENEFIT.

Messrs. Raymond and Lennox, recently of Laura Keene's theatre, take a joint benefit at the Winter Garden to-morrow evening. Without at all entering into the merits of the controversy now raging between these actors and Miss Laura Keene—a controversy of little interest except to those concerned—we may say that Messrs. Raymond and Lennox are very clever, talented and deserving young men; that Miss Keene lost two good actors when she discharged them; and that, as Mrs. Wood is to play to-morrow evening, in "Pocahontas," for the first time, everybody should go and see her, laugh for two hours, and benefit Raymond and Lennox.

Musical.

"UN BALLO IN MASCHERA" AT THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

The disappointment experienced by the public last Monday evening was unavoidable, as far as regards the management or the favorite artist who was to appear in "Norma." Mme. Medori was so seriously indisposed that she could not sing—a fact which she announced to her manager in due season, but with the assurance that if any improvement took place she would, although suffering, go through the opera. It became evident towards the close of the day that her appearance was impossible, and hence, as there was no time to prepare another performance, the Academy, perforce, remained closed that evening. Last night, Mme. Medori being still indisposed, Mme. Guerrabella consented, at short notice, to assume the *role* of Amelia in the "Ballo," the announcement of which fact crowded the house. It was known that Signor Bellini would appear as Reinhart, a *role* in which he won well merited triumphs in Havana. These were all powerful inducements, and, as we said above, the Academy was filled.

Mme. Guerrabella (Amelia), whose voice is admirably cultivated, has the additional advantage of an unusually fine stage appearance, and is worthy to rank in the new troupe as their equal in dramatic force. She was received by the large and fashionable audience with the most flattering demonstrations. Her performance was eminently attractive, as was proved by the applause which greeted her during the entire opera. At the end of the third act she was called before the curtain. This *artiste* is a decided acquisition to the Marbizek troupe, enabling the manager to produce some operas which have not been sung in New York for a long time.

Mlle. Sulzer, as the enchantress, appeared to great advantage. We have so recently reviewed her performance of this *role* that it is unnecessary to enter into any further details here. We will simply add that her success was as great as on her first representation of the part.

Mlle. Ortolani Brignoli was a pleasing Page Oscar. We do not think, however, that she appears to as great advantage in this *role* as in Violetta in the "Traviata." Her voice, although not powerful, is most pleasing and melodious, and is under great cultivation. There is lacking in Mlle. Brignoli's *role* of the Page that dash which belongs to the part. Her rendition of the music of the *role* was all that could be desired.

Signor Mazzolenl as Count Ricardo was immensely successful. As on the first night of the "Ballo," he sang the barcarole with infinite zest and power. It was tumultuously encored. Throughout the opera he met with the same success. He sang admirably, while he acted the *role* to perfection.

Signor Bellini, of whose performance as Reinhart we have heard so much praise, was fully equal to our anticipations. He infused in this character a dramatic warmth which impressed the audience. In the scene between himself and, as he supposes, his guilty wife, he was grand. The public bestowed upon his efforts the warmest applause. As this artist's voice recovers from the hoarseness which has veiled it up to the present time, its power and purity become more and more apparent. It is evident that Bellini will become a great favorite in New York.

On Friday evening the "Favorita" will be given, with a powerful cast.

"LA TRAVIATA" AT THE BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

To-night the Maretzek operatic troupe make their *debut* at the Academy of Music, in Brooklyn, upon which occasion the favorite opera, "La Traviata," will be given, with Mlle. Brignoli, Mazzolenl and Bellini.

IRVING HALL.

On Saturday evening next Mr. Robert Goldbeck's Grand Orchestral and Vocal Concert will take place at Irving Hall, on which occasion will be produced "Victoria," a symphony for great orchestra, by Robert Goldbeck, embodying the ideas of Peace, Struggle and Triumph. Mr. Goldbeck has the honor to announce that the gentlemen of the New York German Liederkranz have kindly consented to sing on this occasion, under the conductorship of Mr. A. Paur. The following artists have also kindly volunteered to assist Mr. Goldbeck:—Messrs. S. S. Mills, William Mason and Theodore Thomas. The orchestral pieces will be performed by the members of the Philharmonic Society, under the direction of Messrs. Theo. Thomas and R. Goldbeck.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

Washington, March 18, 1863.

GENERAL HOOKER AND GENERAL M'CLELLAN.

I learn from the highest authority that General Hooker has peremptorily refused to allow his name to be used in connection with a pamphlet which is now being prepared for publication in New York in regard to General McClellan. Several of the sporting characters in your city, who are getting out the pamphlet, are terribly down on "Little Mac," and desired to get General Hooker to endorse the work; but he has positively refused to allow his name to be mixed up with the affair in any way or shape. This he has done over his own signature.

THE EASTERN GULF BLOCKADING SQUADRON.

Acting Rear Admiral Bailey, commanding the Eastern Gulf Blockading Squadron, under date of Key West, March 10, informs the Navy Department of the arrival there of the steamer Huntsville, from a short cruise between Havana and the Tortugas; also of the return of the Sagamore from as far up the coast as Mosquito Inlet.

He encloses an interesting report of an expedition made by the boats of the Sagamore to the town of Smyrna, for the purpose of capturing and destroying a vessel loaded with cotton, in which a brisk engagement of twenty minutes occurred, resulting in the destruction of the vessel, and the loss on our side of one killed and five wounded.

The officers and men of the expedition appear to have behaved with great spirit and judgment. Their subsequent operations have been of great service in clearing out the rebels from Indian river and breaking up their connection with the lawless hordes of Nassau.

This last achievement, wholly unassisted as they were, against nearly double their own number, and showing such determined bravery and endurance, is of a brilliancy to merit especial recognition from the government.

The results of their expedition, consisting of a sloop and a boat, together with thirty-five bales of sea island cotton, had arrived at Key West.

The gunboat Gem of the Sea on the 10th captured the sloop Petee, of Savannah, for Nassau, while attempting to run the blockade at Indian River inlet, East Florida. She had a cargo of salt. Being old and leaky, she was destroyed.

DISCHARGE OF FEMALES FROM THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

It is understood that all the females at present employed in the Treasury Department will be discharged within a few weeks, their services being no longer required.

LARGE SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE PUBLIC LOANS.

An evidence of the increasing confidence in public securities is furnished by the fact that the subscriptions of yesterday to the five-twenty loan amounted to two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. The subscriptions today to the same loan were over four hundred thousand dollars. It has been predicted that within a week the daily subscriptions to this loan will be more than half a million.

THE NEW FRACTIONAL REVENUE CURRENCY.

The Secretary of the Treasury is rapidly pushing forward the work upon the new fractional revenue currency. The arrangements are complete for producing, under the immediate auspices of the Treasury Department, more beautiful notes for the new government currency than have ever yet been executed by any bank note engravers. While Mr. Chase has not summoned to his aid in this respect an army of artists and operators, he has secured the services of scientific experts in engraving, chemistry, copperplate printing and papermaking, which will enable him to produce a style of note superior to any yet issued, and more difficult to counterfeit.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE UNITED STATES TREASURER.

The following appointments have been made to the new offices authorized under the Treasurer of the United States:—Assistant Treasurer, Standish Barry; Cashier, Samuel E. Middleton; Assistant Cashier, Leroy Tuttle; Loan Division, Michael J. O'Shaugnessy; Issue Division, Humphrey J. Root; Account Division, Hopkins Lightner; Redemption Division, Wm. S. Huntington.

THE WASHINGTON POST OFFICE.

Mr. L. Clephane, Postmaster of Washington city, has at his own request been transferred from the Post Office to that of Collector of Internal Revenue for this district. Mr. Sayles J. Bowen is to be appointed Postmaster. Mr. Bowen was up to this time Collector of Internal Revenue, and enjoyed also other offices, among which were those of Disbursing Clerk of the United States Senate, President of the Levy Court, and Commissioner of Police. There has been no actual removal, but simply a change of positions.

City Intelligence.

Grammar School No. 11, Seventeenth Street.—The annual examination of this school by the city superintendents has just been completed. The results have been highly satisfactory, and they pronounced the school in all respects worthy of high commendation. Twenty-four young men having completed the course of study of the highest grade, will be awarded certificates by the Superintendent. The exercises on the last day were pleasantly varied by declamations and music of a high order of of merit. The school numbers 2,500 children in all its departments.

Commencement of the College of Pharmacy.—The Thirty-third annual commencement of the New York College of Pharmacy will take place at the chapel of the University, Washington square, this evening. The programme of exercises promises a pleasing entertainment to the friends of this institution.

Relief for Ireland.—The famine in Ireland is beginning to arouse the sympathy of the generous public in this country. In Philadelphia the other day the members of the Corn Exchange subscribed a very large sum of money for the relief of the Irish sufferers, and appointed a committee to get up a public meeting. The Knights of St Patrick, at a recent meeting, adopted suitable resolutions respecting the matter, and made arrangements to get up a great public demonstration in this city, in which the Friendly Sons and other kindred associations will participate. A meeting of the special committee appointed by the Knights of St. Patrick will take place in the course of a few days, when some information will be given relative to the plan of operations

The Banquet of the Knights of St Patrick—Correction.—In our report of the splendid banquet of the Knights of St. Patrick, at the Chinese Assembly Rooms, on Tuesday evening, an error was unintentionally made respecting the parties under whose direction the hall was decorated. The gentlemen to whom the credit belongs are Messrs. Michael T. Clarke, Wm. H. Archer and Charles J. Quinn.

The New York Harbor Defence Commission.

This commission, consisting of the Mayor and Comptroller, and five members of each Board of the Common Council, it will be recollected, met and organized on the 28th of last month. This and the ensuing meeting, which was held on the 4th instant, were public. At the third meeting, however, on the 9th instant, the doors were closed to the public, the Board having invited a number of distinguished gentlemen of practical and scientific ability to address them on the condition of the harbor defences, and the best means of improving them and putting the city in a thoroughly defensible condition against the attack of an enemy. The information likely to be elicited it was judged it would not be proper to have go abroad. At this meeting Colonel Richard Delafield, of the United States Engineer corps, who is in charge of the fortifications in the harbor, gave a detailed account of the existing condition of the harbor defences, suggested improvements upon them which he thought ought to be made, and urged the necessity of early action in this direction. Remarks were also made by Wm. H. Webb, Esq., the well known ship builder; Lieutenant J. V. D. Reeve, of the regular army; Alfred W. Craven, Esq., Chief Engineer of the Croton Aqueduct; Wm. Laimbeer, Esq., and Theodosius F. Secor, Esq., the well known iron founder. Communications were received from Admiral Paulding, Commandant of the Navy Yard at Brooklyn, and Captain Ericsson, of Monitor celebrity. At this meeting the President (Mayor Opdyke) announced the standing committees as follows:—

On Water Defences—Aldermen Boole and Hardy, Councilmen Jones and Hayes.

On Land Defences—Councilmen Houghtaling and Repper, Aldermen Henry and Mitchell.

On Ordnance—Councilmen Brice and Jones, Aldermen Boole and Ottiwell.

On Contracts—Aldermen Henry and Hardy, Councilmen Hayes and Houghtaling.

On Conference and Correspondence—Aldermen Mitchell and Ottiwell, Councilmen Brice and Repper.

The next meeting was held on last Monday evening, when the Board were addressed by Admiral Paulding, Professor Trowbridge, of the United States Engineer Department, and who is connected with the fortifications of the harbor, Colonel Stiles and Messrs. Norman Wiard and William H. Webb.

The Board adjourned to next Tuesday evening. The Committee on Water Defences and the Committee on Ordnance will hold meetings and give hearings on next Monday.

MOVEMENTS OF OCEAN STEAMERS.

Non Arrival of the Europa.

Halifax, N. S., March 18—8 P. M.

There are no signs of the Europa. Weather fine.

The Plantagenet at Halifax.

Halifax, March 18, 1863.

The propeller Plantagenet, from Liverpool 18th ult., for New York, has arrived here for coal. She experienced very rough weather the entire passage. The Plantagenet has no passengers.

Sailing of the Arabia.

Boston, March 18, 1863.

The steamship Arabia sailed this forenoon with twenty-three passengers for Liverpool and twenty-four for Halifax, and about two hundred and ninety thousand four hundred dollars in specie.

IMPORTANT FROM THE GULF.

Arrival of the Supply Steamship Union.

Threatened Attack on Our Fleet Off Mobile.

Attempt to Repeat the Charleston and Galveston Raids.

SHOTS EXCHANGED AT GALVESTON.

REBEL IRON-CLADS AT SAVANNAH.

INTERESTING FROM HILTON HEAD, &c., &c., &c.

The United States supply steamer Union, Lieut. Commanding Edward Conroy, arrived at this port yesterday morning. She left Aransas Pass, on the coast of Texas, February 25, and communicated with the following places:—Velasco, Galveston, Sabine Pass, Ship Island, Mobile, St. Andrew, Pensacola, St. Joseph, East and West Pass of St. Georges, St. Marks, Cedar Keys, Tampa Bay, Charlotte Harbor, Key West, New Inlet, and arrived at Port Royal 13th inst.; left the next day, and communicated with the fleet off Charleston and Hampton Roads.

The United States steamer Florida arrived off Charleston, having in tow the iron-clad Nantucket. The weather was clear and pleasant.

The Union left New York on the 24th of January with supplies for the South Atlantic and East and West Gulf blockading squadrons. She brought home one hundred and fifty sick and discharged seamen.

The following is a list of the officers attached to the Union:—

Acting Volunteer Lieutenant Commanding—Edward Conroy.

Acting Master and Executive Officer—S. C. Gray.

Acting Master and Sailing Master—Levi Crowell.

Acting Ensigns—T. M. Smalley, Wm. Hallett.

Paymaster—L. C. Merrill.

Assistant Surgeon—S. D. Flagg.

Captain's Clerk—Henry Corse.

Engineers—J. F. Butler, Acting First Assistant; E. L. Thorp, Acting Second Assistant; E. McCorrick, S. A. Slater and Thomas Ustick, Third Assistant Engineers.

Acting Master's Mates—Mail Agent, W. H. Mead; C. E. Tucker, W. V. Smith, E. G. Arnold and C. H. Armstrong.

The following is a list of her passengers:—

J. C. Selinger, Lieutenant Commander; Acting Ensign Henry Foster; Acting Master's Mates Wm. Edgar, Wm. Baker and Richmond Daggett; Paymaster's Clerks Thomas Armstrong and S. Jones.

We learn by the Union that at Galveston the rebels have erected quite formidable batteries, which are mounted with the guns taken off the Harriet Lane and Westfield. Three batteries are on the island on which the city is located, while Pelican Island is fortified equally strong.

The federal fleet off the port consists of the steam frigate Brooklyn, the gunboats Katahdin, Sciota, Kennebec and the Kittatinny. The fleet approach to within a mile and a half of the town, where they anchor, and occasionally throw shells into the town and forts; but they cannot bring their broadsides to bear, and have to operate exclusively with their rifled pivot guns.

In the afternoon of the 12th ult., the Brooklyn steamed up to easy range of Pelican Island, and threw a number of shells into the fort, shooting down the flagstaff, which, however, was replaced by a secesh officer, who, amidst the shell and shot from the Brooklyn, planted a new one, and hoisted the stars and bars.

On the 24th, the Brooklyn sent a few shells into the town and fired the city in three different places, which, however, was soon put out. The Brooklyn had to withdraw, however, as the forts began to send shot from their fifteen-inch rifles, one of which cut the rigging.

The captured steamer Harriet Lane is up the river some seventy miles, where she is being iron-clad.

THREATENED RAID OFF MOBILE.

Our Naval Correspondence.

United States Steamer Susquehanna, Off Mobile, March 5, 1863.

Important News from Mobile—Arrival of Three Deserters—Attempted Raid on Our Fleet—Its Failure—Rebel Gunboats and Rams, &c.

I take this occasion to remind you that we are all alive and kicking. Three deserters from rebeldom came off to the fleet last week. Their names are William Holton, of New Orleans, James Carr, of New York, and Michael Dillon, of Ireland. They obtained a boat on Friday, February 20, from the First Lieutenant of the rebel gunboat Selma, to which they belonged, to go oystering in the vicinity of Grant's Pass, which is an artificial water communication or canal, joining Mobile Bay with Mississippi Sound; and by adroit manœuvering they succeeded in getting beyond the reach of the guns of the steamer and into such shoal water that the Selma could not pursue them. They then pulled for the gunboat Clifton, in the Sound, and succeeded in reaching her on Monday morning, the 23d ult., after a hard struggle with the winds and the waves for about sixty hours.

I learn from James Carr that some four weeks since Admiral Buchanan, of the rebel navy, in command at Mobile, started to come out and attack us in the mid-watch with five steamers, including one ram; namely, gunboats Morgan, Gaines, Selma, ram Baltic, and the river steamer Crescent, the latter loaded with troops for boarding purposes. While on their way down the bay the Selma struck a snag, and was run ashore to keep her from sinking, which put a stop to the expedition for the time; but the attempt is to be made again as soon as they can get some more boats or rams ready.

I also learn that five gunboats have been in process of construction for a long time at a place called Selma, up the Alabama river, and two of them are now on their way down to Mobile to receive their guns, &c.; but all of them are to be ready by the 1st of April; two of them are built for rams and the other three are intended for sea steamers. They are more or less protected by iron plating. The machinery of the new steamer is of a mongrel character. It is composed of old river-boat engines altered and arranged so as to suit the emergency.

It is always very pleasant to receive deserters from the rebels, as it proves the fact that every man now in arms against us is not necessarily a secessionist or disunionist, as there are many thousands of men now in arms who are compelled through brute force to serve in the ranks of the rebels.

We are very sorry that any accident should have prevented their effort to come out and attack us. We should have been delighted in an opportunity to extend to them our warmest greetings. We are always ready for them; in fact, I may say that every vessel on this station has been expecting them for a long time, consequently our lookout for the rebels has been of the most vigilant character, particularly of very dark nights.

I almost forgot to mention that about the 10th ult., as I learn from James Carr, there was an effort made to reach this ship with a submarine torpedo, which was to be attached to the bottom of the ship and be discharged or exploded by means of clockwork that was arranged to run ten minutes before igniting the powder, that being considered time enough to allow of the escape of the parties from the region of danger; but like all previous efforts of that particular kind, the machine failed to reach its object, and subsequently sunk. But supposing it had succeeded, what would you have thought of your humble servant going up on the double quick?

The city of Mobile must be a most charming place of residence. The conscript law includes every male, or nearly so, between the ages of infancy and idiocy, excepting only those who own twenty or more niggers; and the law is carried out in the most relentless and cruel manner by the press gangs of King Jeff. Men are taken wherever they can be found and carried off, *nolens volens*, no matter what family necessity prevent or forbid his going. Why, if that system of incressing our armies was practised we would soon have a force powerful enough to crush the rebels with as much ease as your foot would crush a fly. While we are free men at the North, in the South the masses are abject slaves to a few ambitious politicians. Such things show how hard the shoe pinches them in Dixie.

NEWS FROM PORT ROYAL.

Our Hilton Head Correspondence.

Hilton Head, S. C., March 13, 1863.

Another Successful Raid—A Party of Rebels on Hilton Head Island—They Surprise a Picket, Fire a Signal Station and Make Prisoners a Lieutenant and Eight Men—The Long Roll Beaten—The Rebels Probably Guided by a Deserter—Arrival of Negroes from the Swamps of the Mainland and of Deserters from the Rebel Forts on the Savannah River, &c.

Another evidence of rebel boldness and adroitness was manifested last night, greatly to our mortification. The signal station at Spanish Wells—a plantation bordered by Skull creek, between Hilton Head and Braddock's Point—was surprised and fired, and one officer and eight men were taken prisoners almost without resistance. The affair occurred at midnight. The moon had not yet risen, and the dense mist which overhung the vicinity shut out even the dim light of the stars, and made the darkness almost intense. A party of rebels, from twenty to [illegible] in number, taking advantage of these circumstances, crossed over from the mainland in small boats, succeeded in reaching the beach and [illegible] our lines at a point between the [illegible] station and the post of the nearest picket. Stealthily [illegible] ing towards the house, they found it guarded by two sentinels, and then made their way around to the rear, [illegible] there was but one, on whom they fired. Instead [illegible] turning the fire, as he should have done, he ran on [illegible] into the house, where a sergeant and three men belonging to the company on picket were asleep. The house was immediately surrounded, and the inmates of the [illegible] rooms were at once secured. Among the prisoners [illegible] three flagmen belonging to the signal corps and a [illegible] and four privates of the Ninth Maine Volunteers.

Two signal officers were in an apartment at the [illegible] the building at the time, and one of them—Lieut. [illegible] Rushby—hearing the bubbub below stairs, partly dressed himself and ran down to see what was up. He arrived in the midst of the rebels just as they were leaving the house, and was compelled to accompany them. They would not permit him to dress himself, but carried him off in nothing but his [illegible] socks and pantaloons. Before he was taken however, the rebels had drawn some embers out [illegible] fireplace and set the floor on fire, and the entire structure seemed to be in a fair way of destruction. The fires were afterwards subdued by some contrabands, but [illegible] until a large quantity of clothing had been destroyed.

Lieutenant Fenner, the remaining signal officer, [illegible] flagman named Tuttle, secreted themselves in the [illegible] portion of the building, and were unmolested. As [illegible] the rebels departed—which they did with [illegible] alacrity—the alarm was given to the nearest picket [illegible] pursuit was made, but without avail. The rebels succeeded in getting out of harm's way, and in taking their prisoners with them.

For a time the signal line was rendered useless [illegible] courier was despatched to General Terry's headquarters at Hilton Head, with the news of the raid. His [illegible] grew on its way hither to a report that the enemy had landed in force, and that a whole company had been taken. It was one o'clock this morning [illegible] he arrived. Instantly the long roll was ordered [illegible] gaten, and the troops were all under arms in a few minutes. Officers were awakened from their sleep [illegible] and the sound of their boots and spurs and clanking swords, as they strode furiously off to find out what the matter, was intensely exciting, while the nervousness of others, who acted as if they were about to be [illegible] ed in their beds, and who were unable to find the [illegible] leg of their pantaloons at the proper time, was [illegible] amusing. By the time, however, that the troops were started, the signal station was again in order, [illegible] mysterious movement of a torch at Pope's plantation five miles distant, told us the story in a very few [illegible]

I have not yet been able to ascertain the names [illegible] pickets captured. The names of the prisoners captured with the signal corps are as follows:—

First Lieut. Thos. F. Rushby, New York Volunteer engineers, acting signal officer.

Private John Hudgen, Company D, Twelfth Pennsylvania reserve corps.

Private John Newman, Company B, Forty-seven[illegible] York Volunteers.

Private A. S. C. Williams, Company A, Third [illegible] Island artillery.

The theory of Gen. Terry is that private Caleb [illegible] of the Ninth Maine Volunteers—concerning whom [illegible] you a paragraph from the Charleston *Mercury* [illegible] weeks since—really deserted from Spanish Wells [illegible] that the mortifying and successful raid of last [illegible] attributable to the information imparted by him [illegible] enemy. Jones had lived twelve years in the South [illegible] had several times expressed a desire to go back [illegible] He was a new recruit, and undoubtedly availed [illegible] of the first opportunity to achieve what he desired [illegible] enlisting—namely, desertion to the enemy.

A party of negroes, three in number, were [illegible] in to-night from Pinckney Island, having made [illegible] escape from the mainland to the headquarters of [illegible] Jackson, of the Third New Hampshire Volunteers. [illegible] were the most abject looking creatures I ever saw [illegible] less, hatless, and clothed in the raggedest of rags [illegible] said they had been more than three weeks trying [illegible] Hilton Head, and that for nearly four months [illeg