CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The Rebel Privateers—The Atlantic Telegraph Project—Our Harbor Defences—The Occupation of the Rio Grande, &c.

The Chamber of Commerce held its regular monthly meeting at one o'clock yesterday—the President, Hon. Peter Cooper, in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and approved, the following were elected members of the Chamber:—Messrs. Walter Hayes, Thomas H. McGee.

THE OCCUPATION OF THE RIO GRANDE.

The Clerk of the Chamber then read the following communication from the Secretary of War:—

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON CITY, March 6, 1863.

SIR—The Secretary of War directs me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23d ult., transmitting a series of resolutions unanimously adopted at a special meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of the city of New York, held on Saturday, the first of February, urging an early occupation of the Rio Grande frontier, in order to complete the blockade.

The Secretary instructs me to say that the resolutions of the Chamber have been referred to the General-in-Chief of the army for a report on the important subject to which they relate. Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

P. H. WATSON, Assistant Secretary of War.

JOHN AUSTIN STEVENS, Secretary Chamber of Commerce.

P. S.—The General-in-Chief endorsed this by suggesting that the object could be best effected by the occupation of the Mississippi Valley, thus severing their line of communication.

THE REBEL PIRATES.

The following letter from Commodore Porter was read:—

WASHINGTON CITY, D. C., March 7, 1863.

PELATIAH PERIT, ESQ., Presiding Officer of the New York Chamber of Commerce:—

DEAR SIR—I have seen in the HERALD that the Chamber of Commerce has held a meeting in relation to the capture of our commercial ships by the rebel pirates. Congress has passed a law to issue letters of marque. Now is the time for the merchants of New York to put their shoulders to the wheel and aid the government. A small vessel should be built, armed and armored after the plan or principle invented by Mr. Jones, of St. Louis, and myself, which would be a match for any rebel pirate afloat. The capture of the Alabama alone would pay well all parties concerned, and the captures of other prizes running the blockade would make fortunes for all engaged in building and arming the vessel. I am not a rich man, but will invest the first one thousand dollars in the construction of such a vessel and command her. Besides the benefit to yourselves in a speculative point of view, it will be giving the government the greatest aid. The Navy Department has its hands full just now, and is straining every nerve to accomplish all demands made by the country.

Allow me to suggest and advise you to strike at once. The Alabama has already destroyed twenty times more in value of our commerce than would build such a ship as she herself is, or such a one as recommended, ten times over.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. D. PORTER, United States Navy.

THE DEPREDATIONS OF THE ALABAMA.

Mr. A. A. Low, Chairman of the Committee on the Depredations of the Alabama, said that the committee were not prepared to report just yet; but he would like to read a few extracts from a letter which had been sent to him from London, which came from a responsible and reliable authority. Mr. Low read the extracts referred to, as follows:—

LONDON, March 17, 1863.

* * * According to your request, I transmit such information as I have regarding the progress of pirate vessels building in Great Britain for the use of the insurgents, which I am sorry to inform you have not thus far attracted the attention of the government of her Majesty.

The Sumter, which was fictitiously sold to an agent of the vessels, has been overhauled, refitted and put in complete condition at Birkenhead. She is now ready for her armament and for sea. The new steamer Southerner, which was last week launched at Stockton. She is intended undoubtedly for the rebel service. The firm at Liverpool that built the Oreto have just launched the gunboat Alexandra; Captain Tessier and a number of rebel agents were on board during one day. Mr. Dudley, our efficient Consul at Liverpool, is now attempting to stop this last vessel; but in view of the Alabama correspondence, a copy of which I have sent to your Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, there is but little hope of success. The bark Aggupriss is about to start from Liverpool, it is supposed, with men and munitions for the Alabama, while the fleet of blockade runners is daily increasing.

George N. Sanders, it is understood, is here, and is hurrying up all the vessels he contracted for. In addition to all this, five men from the Alabama lately arrived at Liverpool with orders on an English house for their pay, from the pirate Captain Semmes. Their time of service expired on their arrival in England.

All these things are permitted to be done, and are unnoticed by the government, although I may say that none of our representatives abroad have neglected their duties in the premises. There is considerable feeling being aroused by the acts of the Alabama and Oreto in burning vessels at sea, and the English government may yet interfere to prevent any more piratical crafts sailing from their ports; but I must confess that there is but faint hopes of it.

The above was referred to the Committee on the Alabama.

ENGLISH NEUTRALITY.

Mr. RICHARDS said he had found on the table a pamphlet entitled "English Neutrality," which treated that subject in a judicious and fair manner, and it had struck him that it would be the duty of the Chamber to make some effort to distribute a pamphlet of such an important character. He therefore suggested that an appropriation be made for the distribution of five hundred copies both at home and abroad.

The CHAIRMAN said he had read the pamphlet in question, which he considered a very forcible argument from facts of the entirely honorable course this government had pursued, and putting equally clearly in the wrong the course of the English government in relation to the Alabama.

Mr. Richards' motion was put and carried.

THE EXPLORATION OF ASIA.

Dr. McGowan, the great Eastern traveller, sent in a communication, asking the aid of the members of the Chamber in his contemplated exploration of Eastern Asia. The communication was ordered on file, and the following were appointed a committee to co-operate with Dr. McGowan:—Messrs. Oliphant, Westray and Weston.

THE CHICAGO CONVENTION.

The CHAIRMAN reported the following names to compose the committee to attend the Chicago Convention, discussed at last meeting:—

Jos. Sturges, E. D. Morgan, Denning Duer, S. B. Ruggles, David Hoadley, Geo. W. Lane, H. W. T. Malt, M. F. Odell, Samuel Sloan, H. G. Stebbins, Peter Cooper, Geo. Griswold, Chas. Butler, Wm. A. White, Henry E. Worthington, Walter S. Griffith, W. T. Coleman, S. B. Chittenden, W. E. Dodge, T. C. Greene, R. L. Kennedy, C. H. Russell, H. L. Smythe, W. H. Webb, Geo. Grinnell, James Low.

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.

Mr. A. A. Low read the following series of resolutions in connection with this project, which passed unanimously:—

Whereas, a new effort is making to establish the Atlantic telegraph from Newfoundland to Great Britain, and very considerable success has attended the recent meetings held in behalf thereof, in this room, at the Stock Exchange and at the Produce Exchange of this city; therefore

Resolved, That it becomes this Chamber to express its sense of the great importance of the enterprise, not to commerce only, but to all the interests of mankind.

Resolved, That the success which has attended other attempts of a like nature affords sufficient encouragement to renew an undertaking of such vast moment to the United States of America.

Resolved, That, in the judgment of this Chamber, whatever risk may be involved in the prosecution of this enterprise, it is small in comparison with the boon its accomplishment will confer on the North.

Resolved, That while this Chamber does but follow the teachings of science and experience in recommending the Atlantic telegraph to the merchants of New York, and of the United States generally, as worthy of their support, it may properly hold out, as an incentive, the honor its successful completion will reflect on all who participate in the present hazard and the final triumph.

Mr. Low said that great success had attended the efforts of Mr. Field to procure subscriptions to the enterprise since the first meeting held in that room some weeks ago. He thought the subscriptions now exceeded forty-two or forty-three thousand pounds sterling in this country. Mr. Field had brought there some specimens of the submarine cable already laid and in working order, which would interest the members.

Mr. CHITTENDEN, in seconding the resolutions, said it seemed to him that, notwithstanding the high rate of exchange, he had a reasonable hope in the success of the enterprise, which had been so favorably inaugurated. It was desirable that the matter should be pushed forward as rapidly as possible.

Mr. Cyrus W. Field was here called on to give a description of the specimens of cable arranged for inspection on the table.

Mr. FIELD said that the cables there represented by specimens were at the present time in successful operation throughout the world, and had been for several years. They were thirty one in number, were of different sizes, and were the manufacture of Glass, Elliot & Co. As an instance of the success of one of them, he mentioned that on a line from Jubal, in the Red Sea, to Liverpool, a message which had to proceed through different stations arrived in England in less than fourteen minutes. The only accident to these cables occurred from ships' anchors near the shore. When the Atlantic cable should have been completed they would be enabled to transmit fourteen words per minute. Messrs. Glass, Elliot & Co. had agreed to complete the cable, to go out with their own engineers to lay it, and to receive only the cost of material and labor, with twenty per cent in shares when the line would be in full operation, each share to be delivered to them monthly.

Mr. PETER COOPER made some remarks in advocacy of the project. Since the laying of the former cable the British government has sounded the Atlantic three times, and it had been pretty clearly ascertained that the best places to lay the cable were from the Irish coast to Trinity Bay, in Newfoundland. He expressed his entire confidence in the success of the undertaking.

Mr. W. E. DODGE also made some remarks in support of the laying of the cable.

OUR HARBOR DEFENCES.

Mr. A. A. Low reported, on behalf of the committee who visited the harbor defences of this port, in favor of paying the expenses of the trip, and, in answer to the chair, said that the forts were rapidly being placed in an impregnable state of defence.

The Chamber soon after adjourned.

United States Circuit Court.

PATENT REAPING AND MOWING APPARATUS.

APRIL 1.—*Eunice B. Hussey, Administratrix, &c., of Obed Hussey, deceased, vs. Christopher C. Bradley and Christopher C. Bradley, Jr.*—This suit was brought on three patents issued to Obed Hussey for inventions in the cutting apparatus of reaping and mowing machines. It has been pending for about two years, and was argued but fall on final hearing before Justice Nelson and Judge Hall by George Gifford and E. W. Stoughton, of New York, for the complainant; and by George M. Lee and Samuel Fisher, of Cincinnati, for the defendants. All questions on these patents have been thoroughly contested.

The Court have recently rendered a decision sustaining all the patents on all points, and holding that the machines made by the defendants infringe all those patents, and have ordered a decree for an account and a perpetual injunction.

SUBSTITUTES FROM THE DRAFT.—Letters have been received from St. John, N. B., announcing that crowds of young men are daily arriving at various ports of the British Provinces from the United States, in order to avoid the impending draft. One steamer arrived with two hundred passengers, and another with six hundred. There is no employment for them at present in the provinces, and unless they are provided with the means to live they will find it necessary to return to this country.

THE SUPPOSED POISONING OF A WOMAN.

Search for Her Stomach—It is Again Missing.

SECOND DAY.

The inquest on the body of Mrs. Susan Thomas, wife of John Jacob Thomas, who died so suddenly on the 21st of March, under suspicious circumstances, was continued before Coroner Farrel, of Jersey City, yesterday.

It having been ascertained that the missing stomach of deceased had been thrown into the sink of the outhouse an officer was despatched to search for it on Wednesday night. The officer found that the seat in the outhouse, had been disturbed and holes cut through the floor. The deposit in there was sufficiently hard to prevent the stomach from sinking. The deposit was carefully removed; but the stomach could not be found. Mr. Heberlin, a brother-in-law of Mr. Thomas, came up and said that he had also been searching for it, but without success.

Mr. Thomas was present at the investigation yesterday, and occupied a seat by the side of his counsel.

The following is the evidence taken:—

Delia Lynn, sworn—I live with Mr. Thomas in the capacity of chambermaid; have resided there eleven months; Mrs. Thomas was very well until the last three months; she was sick a long time from nervousness; Dr. Rhein came to see her first, and did not seem to do her any good, and Mr. Thomas sent for a doctor at Hoboken, who cured her; have never known of any difficulty between them; Mrs. Thomas used to get in a passion with the governess sometimes; she had a spat with her husband sometimes, but do not know what it was about; Mr. Thomas did all he could for his wife; can't remember that Mrs. Thomas complained of ill treatment; Mr. Thomas was home when his wife came home that night; I saw her that evening; she made no complaints of ill health, and appeared well; she had her tea that evening as usual; she retired about ten o'clock, and was taken with a fit about half an hour afterwards; Mr. Thomas was not up stairs at the time; the governess, Miss Stock, rang the bell for us, which was the first intimation we had of her sickness; Mr. Thomas was up stairs, but not in his wife's room; the doctor came about three quarters of an hour afterwards; I was present; she told the doctor that she had cramps in the knees; we rubbed them with warm brandy, but it did not seem to have any effect; the doctor administered the medicine and it made her better for a little while; I sat up with her all night; the doctor remained, but did not stay in the room all night; Mrs. Thomas had fits very often that night; they seemed to last five minutes; the doctor left about half-past five o'clock A. M., and said he would come again; the governess was with Mrs. Thomas when she died; Mr. Thomas thought he would lay down; she had just died when I came down; Mr. Thomas thought she was not dead and wanted to send for the doctor; he came shortly after and was astonished to see that she was dead; Dennis' (the gardener) wife helped to lay the body out; the body was carried down stairs about nine o'clock; she was to be buried on Monday morning, but was buried about half-past five on Sunday; because she spoke about poison Mr. Thomas thought it was best to have her opened; the doctor said she would not keep, and it was better to bury her on Sunday; there were not many persons at the funeral; did not see any clergyman; a great many had seen Mrs. Thomas on Friday, and did not believe she was dead; saw Mr. Heberlin at the funeral; do not know anything about the stomach that was left lying on the table; first heard yesterday by the cook that the stomach was given to Mr. Heberlin; this was when I went home last evening; think she said Dr. Cudlic gave it to him, and that he could do what he pleased with it; she said she heard that he threw the stomach in the privy; do not think Mr. Heberlin and Mr. Thomas were on good terms; they are brothers-in-law; they had some words, but do not know what it was about; this difficulty was quite a time before her death; was in the room when Mrs. Thomas said she hoped God would spare her life, and that she had not taken poison; do not know what caused her to make this last remark; Mr. Thomas told me that Dr. Rhein told him that Mrs. Thomas was making believe; after her death Miss Stock told me that Mrs. Thomas said she was going, and asked her to be a mother to her children; Mrs. Thomas' daughter told me I need not say anything to any one about her mother's death; saw Dr. Rhein and Mr. Thomas smile when she had one of the fits, but did not know what it was about; after death her feet seemed to be out of shape a little; do not know of any jealous feeling existing between Mr. Thomas and wife; when deceased had these spells Mr. Thomas was most of the time in the hall, and felt very bad; Mr. Heberlin married Mrs. Thomas' sister; I believe Mr. Heberlin looked for the stomach in the privy yesterday afternoon; the cook told me of it when I came home; do not know who was with him, and do not know whether he found the stomach or not; deceased laid on a shroud and a cap on the head.

The Jury then took a recess until half-past one P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Godfrey Heberlin, sworn—I wish an interpreter, as it is a case of life and death. [It was decided to proceed until an interpreter came.] I was at the post-mortem at Mr. Thomas' on the 22d of March; went there about eleven o'clock; three doctors were there when I arrived; they were Drs. Rhein, Rittler and Cudlic; was last there previously about five or six months ago; was present most of the time at the post-mortem; Dr. Cudlic took the lead; the breast, lungs, heart and head were examined; the stomach was taken out and the kidneys were examined; the brain was removed from the skull; it was put back again; the heart and kidneys were put back; the stomach was taken out and laid on the table after being tied up with twine; the stomach was not put back into the body; did not see the body removed from the table; during the post-mortem Mr. Thomas was in front of the house, walking on the piazza; I took the stomach, enveloped it in a piece of newspaper, and put it in the backhouse; the three doctors were in the room when I put it in the backhouse; I came back to the room and told the doctors that I did so; before this Dr. Cudlic spoke about having it analyzed; I told Mr. Thomas, in presence of Mr. Hemming, a brother-in-law, the result of the post-mortem; did not tell him what had been done with the stomach; think no one saw me go to the privy with the stomach; looked for the stomach yesterday afternoon, between three and four o'clock; Dr. Cudlic and the driver of the carriage were present; we did not find it; the excrement was hard from coal ashes, &c.; did not find the newspaper; did not look there from the Sunday until yesterday; there may have been from eighteen to twenty persons present at the funeral; saw Mrs. Thomas on Friday, the day before she died, at my room, 317 Grand street, Williamsburg; this was about twelve o'clock; I went with her to the foot of Barclay street, and I went over the Jersey City ferry to Newark. Witness—I wish it understood that I took the stomach away with the consent of Drs. Rhein and Rittler; took it away because the body was sewed up; I examined the body and found the bowels very big; the hands were soft; I came from my house in Williamsburg to the ferry with Mrs. Thomas, in the cars; from the Roosevelt street ferry we walked to the Barclay street ferry; Dr. Cudlic suggested that a chemical examination should be made; I told them I could not believe she had taken poison; Mrs. Thomas went to Europe about three or four years ago, with four of her children; she was away about one year; she went to Europe because of differences between herself and husband; Miss Stock came back with her; Miss Stock has remained in that situation (governess) since she came to this country; do not know that her remaining there was a subject of grievance to Mrs. Thomas; did not speak while the doctors were about placing the stomach in the hands of a chemist; when she came to my house in Williamsburg she commenced to speak of family matters, and I told her I did not wish to know anything about it; we had no minister there; at the funeral of my wife we had no minister; that is not uncommon amongst Germans; it is possible that the stomach was taken by rats; have no knowledge of its having been removed; I had a difficulty with Mr. Thomas of a private character, about five months ago, and have not seen him since that time; it was not relating to family matters; Mrs. Thomas and Miss Stock were both ladies of the highest reputation. Q. By Mr. Gilchrist—Were you friendly with Mrs. Thomas? A. Yes. Q. And unfriendly with Mr. Thomas? A. Yes; I have told you that; I did not speak with him. To the Coroner—I am a druggist, but have sold out my business. Q. By Mr. Gilchrist—Did not Dr. Cudlic say, when I told you yesterday to go and get the stomach, the only danger was that the rats might have destroyed it? A. Yes; it was between two and three o'clock that you told me the stomach must be produced.

Andrew Hoffman, sworn—I reside at North Hoboken, and was the undertaker for the funeral of Mrs. Thomas; Dr. Rhein told me of the death on Saturday morning; myself, driver and the gatekeeper took the body down stairs on Saturday; it was too warm up stairs; froth was issuing from the mouth; next saw the body after the post-mortem; Mr. Thomas told me that Mr. Hemming had charge of the funeral arrangements; on Sunday Mr. Thomas told me to have her buried as soon as I could; think he did not give any reason for it; Mr. Hemming told me she must be buried that day; I got two carriages and a hearse from Jersey City; sent my wife for them; I engaged a hearse just returning from the cemetery; but shortly afterwards my own came and I sent the first one away; when the body was buried that day it was covered up immediately.

Leonard Schlumberger, sworn—Mrs. Thomas' body was buried last Sunday week; the grave was opened by the officers last Sunday night; did not remove the body that night; opened it about two feet, and they told me to let it be until they came again; I closed it up about eleven o'clock next day; Monday night, about eleven o'clock, the officers took the body away; the grave was not opened at any other time to my knowledge.

Johannah Stock, sworn—I have resided two years in this country with Mr. and Mrs. Thomas, on Union Hill; when I came down to breakfast on Friday week I was told that Mrs. Thomas had gone to New York; first saw her at six o'clock, at dinner; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas, myself and the children were at dinner; Mrs. Thomas drank a glass of beer at dinner; Mrs. Thomas took the children to bed about eight o'clock, and then came down and remained in the front room reading; Mr. Thomas and myself were also in the room; we had coffee about three-quarters of an hour after dinner; I stopped down stairs four or five minutes after Mrs. Thomas went up stairs, and then I went to bed; left Mr. Thomas in the room reading; Mrs. Thomas called me about half-past ten; when I went in Mrs. Thomas said she felt as though some one had knocked her on the head, and that her feet were cold; I rang the bell, when the servants came up, and Mr. Thomas followed, and sent for the doctor; Mrs. Thomas' face was flushed, her hands and legs shook, and her legs were mostly drawn up; Mrs. Thomas said she thought she had been reading too much, which caused her nerves to shake; I remained in the room until she died; the spasms were sometimes less, then more, with intervals between; Mrs. Thomas did not die in convulsions; Mr. Thomas was in and out of the room during the night; I informed him that she was dead; he was at home all day on Saturday and did not go out at all; the time of the funeral was not spoken of on Saturday; Mr. Hemming spoke about having a post-mortem on Saturday morning, about seven; Mr. Hemming asked Mr. Thomas if he was going to have a dissection, and Mr. Thomas said "certainly;" the time of dissection was left with the physicians; on Saturday evening Dr. Rittler came and said they would make the dissection at ten o'clock the next day; sometimes the cook serves coffee and sometimes the chambermaid; do not know who served it that night; do not know whether Mrs. Thomas took coffee or not; I did not take any; Mr. Thomas took some; I came from the Southern part of Germany with Mrs. Thomas; was acquainted with Mrs. Thomas a year in Germany; Mrs. Thomas and my relations requested me to come with the children; did not at that time understand that there was any difficulty between Mr and Mrs. Thomas; they have sometimes had slight differences; Mrs. Thomas was very quick tempered; had not been informed before yesterday that the stomach was not buried; the children persuaded their father to move; he consented, but had made no preparation; I took the pictures down and piled them up, and also took down the curtains; we all rubbed Mrs. Thomas' legs with warm brandy; Mrs. Murphy assisted.

John Murphy, sworn—I saw Mrs. Thomas go away on that Friday; she walked away; I reside with my father in the lodge-gatehouse; first heard of the time fixed for the funeral on Sunday afternoon; we took down a few beds and placed them in a vacant room; some trunks were taken down from the garret; my father told me that Mr. Thomas was going to move; this was the week after the funeral.

At six o'clock P. M. the investigation was adjourned until ten P. M. to-day (Friday).

Mr. Wood's Reply to Senator Wilson.

NEW YORK, April 2, 1863.

HON. HENRY WILSON:—I reply to your letter of the 30th ult. out of respect to your position as one of the representatives in the United States Senate of a sovereign State, and not because its manner or matter entitle it to either notice or consideration.

I am honored in your recognition of me as "the brain, the heart, the soul—the philosopher and guide of Mozart Hall." To hold such a commanding position in an organization of such power and patriotism would, if it were true, not only add to my self esteem, but would also increase the desire I have in common with three fourths of the people of this State, to rescue our unfortunate country from the rule of men of your principles.

I regret that you do not concur with Mozart Hall in its estimate of the Conscription act. You appear to be surprised that we should have misunderstood, and consequently misrepresented a law (if a law) intended for our special advantage, and for the advantage of other poor men who have not $300 to pay for exemption from the abolition crusade down South, as you understand the objects of the war. It may be that intellects of plain men like ourselves are not sufficiently brilliant to comprehend the "justice and philanthropy" of this "humane act," but inasmuch as common sense is the only guide we use in the construction of laws, you should overlook the error which you so warmly denounced. In the proceedings of Mozart Hall, to which you take exception, we

Resolved, That the conscription bill recently passed through Congress, and which is claimed by the federal government to be a law, is in our judgment grossly and palpably unconstitutional in its provisions; that it is in express violation of those express conditions and reservations as to the control of the militia, under which the sovereign State of New York entered into the Union; that it is subversive of the rights of State governments and designed to make them mere dependencies and provinces, to be ruled by military satraps, under a great, consolidated, usurping, central despotism; that the people everywhere should be awakened to the infamous distinction which it makes between rich and poor, whereby the former is allowed to buy his freedom for the sum of three hundred dollars, while the latter, unable to command that sum, is to be torn away from his employment, his home, and his family, and forced, at the point of the bayonet, into the ranks of the army, that we call upon the authorities of this State, in view of the intolerable outrages of this Conscription law, to advise the Executive of the United States against the enforcement of this act here, until its constitutionality has been determined, with its provisions so repugnant to the sentiments of our citizens, and so insulting to their manhood and dignity as freemen.

To which, in the elegant and elevated language of your class, you reply:—

Sir, this accusation is false, wickedly, wantonly and infamously false—a foul, shameless and damnable libel upon the law and its framers. The oft-repeated avowals of red-handed traitors, whose souls are stained with the blood of our murdered countrymen, that this accursed rebellion now upon us was forced upon them by the aggressions of the liberty-loving, law abiding, God fearing people of the loyal States are not more shamelessly, wantonly and wickedly false than is this declaration of Mozart Hall that the Conscription act makes distinctions in favor of the rich and against the poor.

Of course, reasoning so cogent is unanswerable! To whom you refer as "the red-handed traitors, whose souls are stained with the blood of our murdered countrymen," I cannot say. In New York, where men are in the habit of tracing effects to causes, and of thus placing the responsibility of guilt upon the man who perpetrates it, either directly or indirectly, common public sentiment would point to Henry Wilson, of Massachusetts, as one of the primary leaders in this band of "red handed traitors."

In reply to the allegation that the Conscription bill makes distinction between the rich and the poor, you say that it does not, because the Secretary of War may, in his discretion, regulate the tariff of prices for example "on the sliding scale" (truly a Yankee device), and may consequently fix it at ten dollars or less as he may please. You say further in its defence that it is more merciful than the State Militia laws which it is intended to ignore or override, inasmuch as it is more sweeping in its requirements, having fewer persons on the "free list." And in conclusion, you state that the act is "evidence of the patriotism, justice and humanity of the Thirty-seventh Congress."

These are the only grounds of your defence of the act from the charges of our resolutions aside from the slang I have quoted. To which I say:—

First—The fact that the Secretary has this power cannot alter the principle to which we object. The rich can pay, but not the poor, consequently it does discriminate in favor of the former to the injury and oppression of the latter class. But the first answer is found in your own averment that one of the objects of the law was "to lighten the burdens of the Treasury." If this be so, of course the maximum of three hundred dollars will be required by the Secretary of War, especially in democratic States.

Second.—The declaration that the act was intended to override the State Militia laws is an admission which a better lawyer would not have made, for such authority was never conferred upon Congress. Whilst you are right that it does thus extinguish State rights, you are wrong in the assumption that constitutionally the federal government had power to do so. The ablest lawyer and constitutional expounder which New England has produced (Mason) said that such a law was "not only inconsistent with the spirit and provisions of the constitution, but also with all the principles of civil liberty."

Third.—That it is "evidence of the patriotism, justice and humanity of the Thirty-seventh Congress," according to your idea of these qualities, I admit. Let it remain as a monument to the memory of that assembly of patriots. But I fear it will not. The act itself, like the fell spirit that conceived and moulded it into shape and being, will pass away amidst the execrations of the American people.

Sir, let me express the hope that it may be submitted to judicial determination before the national exigency may require its enforcement. Notwithstanding its odious features, if it shall be declared valid under the constitution we will respect and obey it. Indeed, as is our duty, we shall support it as authority until otherwise judicially settled. But we will not yield our rights to denounce it as an unwarrantable interference with the reserved power of the States, and as unjust and oppressive to the people. We hope the administration may not feel bound to enforce it. An army of conscripts cannot be available against the South unless the government repudiates the fanatical teachings of men like yourself. Americans will fight and die for their country, its unity and the preservation of its institutions, but not to gratify the partisan ambition of mistaken zealots, who, whilst hounding on others to a bloody grave, take care to keep well out of danger themselves.

FERNANDO WOOD.

Mail Robbery and Arrest.

An important arrest was made yesterday in Jersey City, under a charge of mail robbery. The name of the party arrested is Patrick Brophy, well known in that and this city as one of the oldest mail messengers in the service of the department, having been employed in that capacity for more than fifteen years. His duties were to convey all the Jersey City mails between the two cities, and between the former office and the different railroad depots. He also assisted in the Post Office when not otherwise engaged.

For a year or more, we understand, there have been strong indications of something wrong in and about the Jersey City Post Office. Not only have many valuable letters belonging to that office mysteriously disappeared, but others, which in due course should have passed through it from Hudson City, West Hoboken and other places, have occasionally shared the same fate. Brophy, we learn, has been at times suspected—perhaps more strongly than any one else; but his peculiar facilities and position have enabled him to evade detection, if in reality, as is now supposed, he is the author of all, or the principal part of these frequent and annoying peculations. Recently new proofs, strongly pointing in the same direction, have come to light, and renewed efforts have been made to detect him by Mr. Holbrook, the special agent. This was accomplished on yesterday, and the unfortunate man was at once placed under arrest, and is to have an examination to-day, at ten o'clock, before United States Commissioner Vroom, Jersey City.

Brophy is about forty-five years of age, and has a family.

Fire in Chatham, C. W.

CHATHAM, C. W., April 2, 1863.

The extensive mills, the property of D. R. Van Allen, were burned this morning. Loss $12,000.

The Court of Appeals.

ALBANY, April 2, 1863.

The following is the Court of Appeals calendar for Friday:—Nos. 5, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26.

Arrivals and Departures.

ARRIVALS.

HAVANA—Steamship Eagle—E W Rollins, W B King, R Rachem, T B Nicol and lady, C Guillon, F Verrier and lady, Miss Verrier, A Marcoasta, J P Pierson, Mrs Pierson, J Jesson and lady, R W Simpson, M Lafors, J Bru, M Neiss, E Morrell, lady and servant; B Merabona, Mrs W Pell, Miss L Pell, D C Pell, Mrs Ynaga and servant, A Belmont, lady, son and two servants; J Aron, H Douglass, Dr M F Linguist, G W Lowber, F J Morrison, S de la Vega, C Gonzales, J M Gonzales, J A Whitlock, L A Dowley, Miss F Dowley and servant, E Mathias, C Fox, Mrs M F Smith, Mrs J S De Mendez, A Youngs, J M Davis, W F White, Mrs G Morrell and servant, Mrs L Morrell and servant, F R Pedroro, lady and son; B de la Guerra, L M Pesenthal, M D Onville, Mrs McLellan and son, R P Lord, lady, children and servant; S Heenan, N Valles, A Espentaton, L Socias, Mrs G W Britton and two children, S de la Horeita, W Reansfie, F Bansigen, J Booth, Jas Robinson and lady, Geo Ross, W Carlo, Miss Patterson, G Christaen and lady, J Doran, E Mello, Geo Bennett, F Johnson, H Farr, A Gibelle, R Bartanis, R Lopez, V Brelo, E Teller, R Zutaranta, J del Canal, Miss B Wattes, Miss E Meehan, R G Cuerla, J Durand, E McGregor, F Camerden, J R Trueba, C McGregor, J H Lavalle, J Medina, Madame Hardey, Madame Bouvier, Miss Mendoza, Miss Arvillo, Miss Madan, Miss Nolina, Miss McCue, J M Cowan, R Henry, C W Johnson, Mrs A F Harmon, Mrs P G Loud, Capt J J Laurence, J B Archer, C O Foster, J M Grant, S J Smith, C Tyng, C McLane, T Brooks, J A M Polo, R Rafael, V Olaro, F Aquer, T K Cumanton, F Garcia, A Ledi.

NEW ORLEANS—Steamship George Cromwell—C W Woolley and servant, R T Reeve, A L Palmer, Jr, S Bach, J Peter, Jas Turner, F Maass and lady, J Moncrast, B F Jaggers, G W Oliver, D W Williams, Miss Williams, Mrs R A Kennor, Miss J McLaughlin, Mrs Reoll, Capt J H Woodhouse, D Richmond, J S Gibbons, H A Falk, J A Giddings, F Bassett and lady, J H Wilson, A F Hopper, W H Crowder, G Meyer, J B Gossler, C H Bland, Lieut Burt, J R Ritter, Miss C White, Mrs Butler, J Bockius and lady, the officers and part of the crew of the steamship Rio Rio—and 85 in the steerage.

DEPARTURES.

LIVERPOOL—Steamship Europa, from Boston—S R Spaulding, F A Spaulding, E F Keane, Alex Strong, Robt C Winthrop, Jr, and Capt John E Barnes, of Boston; George M Towle, of Cambridge; Capt N Rich, of Waltham; Mrs Plummer, of Gloucester; R Murray, of Belfast; F A King, of Providence; Mrs James S Salter and two children, of Portsmouth; M L Martinez and B Baldwin and son, of New York; E P Del Bendo, of New Orleans; H A Gallison and J H Vaughan, of New Brunswick; Samuel Ratcliff, of Hamilton, C W; Major Hare, of British Army; Mr Cantra, wife, two children and servant, of Central America; Mrs Clemente, of London; George Glenerose, of Sheffield; C H Walker and F J C Golden and friend, of England; Mr Thompson, of Glasgow; Mr Novella, of Italy—Total 84. For Halifax—H C Alesworth and Miss Brown, of Boston; John Young, of New York; J E Woodworth and F R Cummings, of Philadelphia; J D Nash, M Melleoth, H Rider and J R Noonan, of Halifax.

Lake Navigation.

OSWEGO, April 2, 1863.

Barks Sir R. W. Head and Gibraltar and schooner Shickaluna, from Port Dalhousie, with wheat, came into port this morning, being the first arrivals since the opening of navigation. Most of the ports on Lake Ontario are open

BUFFALO, April 2, 1863.

Buffalo harbor is open.

MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.

Died.

BELLONEY.—In Brooklyn, on Tuesday, March 31, WILLIAM COFFIN, only son of Marco and Mary Jane Balloney, aged 11 years and 7 months.

The relatives and friends of the family, also the friends of his grandfather, Wm. West, are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of his parents, 252 Bridge street, Brooklyn, this (Friday) afternoon, at two o'clock.

BELL.—On Thursday morning, April 2, CAROLINE, youngest child of Edward R. Bell.

Funeral services at St. Paul's church this (Friday) afternoon at one o'clock.

BRENNER.—On Thursday, April 2, after a short and severe illness, WILLIAM W. BRENNER.

Funeral services will take place at the residence of his brother-in-law, John L. Roberts, Jr., 97 East Thirty-first street, on Saturday forenoon, at eleven o'clock. The remains will be taken to New Haven for interment. Relatives and friends are invited to attend without further notice.

BUTLER.—On Wednesday, April 1, of congestion of the brain, ELMER ELLSWORTH, only son of Nathaniel and Pamela H. Butler, aged 1 year, 6 months and 3 days.

Sleep on, sweet babe,
And take thy rest;
God called thee home,
He thought it best.

The funeral will take place from the residence of his parents, 91 Norfolk street, this (Friday) morning, at ten o'clock. The friends of the family are invited to attend.

BROUWER.—On Thursday, April 2, LEBBE SNOBSSON, only child of Annie and the late James T. Brouwer, aged 4 years and 7 months.

The relatives and friends are invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of her mother, No. 161 East Eighteenth street, on Saturday afternoon, at half-past three o'clock, without further notice.

BROOKS.—On Wednesday evening, April 1, ELLA EUGENIA, daughter of Peter and Catherine A. Brooks, aged 7 years, 10 months and 12 days.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of her parents, No. 179 West Thirty-fourth street, this (Friday) afternoon, at half-past two o'clock.

BRINKERHOFF.—At Hackensack, N. J., on Monday, March 30, ALBERT A. BRINKERHOFF, in the 63d year of his age.

DUNN.—On Tuesday, March 31, SUSAN, wife of David Dunn, in the 45th year of her age.

The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral, from her late residence, 60 King street, this (Friday) afternoon, at two o'clock.

DENNIS.—On Wednesday evening, April 1, CATHARINE B., wife of Joseph Dennis, aged 60 years and 2 months.

Farewell, mother.

The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral, from her late residence, 121 Cannon street, on Saturday noon, at twelve o'clock.

DELAHUNTY.—In Brooklyn, on Thursday, April 2, JOHN D., only son of Michael and Lucy M. Delahunty, aged 2 years and 1 month.

The funeral will take place on Saturday afternoon, at one o'clock precisely, from the residence of his grandparents, 95 Wyckoff street. The remains will be interred at Astoria.

DOHERTY.—In Brooklyn, on Wednesday, April 1, of consumption, Mrs. FANNIE DOHERTY, the beloved wife of Wm. Doherty, in the 29th year of her age, a native of the parish of Clonchs, county Donegal, Ireland.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, this (Friday) afternoon, at two o'clock, from her late residence, No. 213 Water street.

FASTING.—On Wednesday, April 1, HELENE MAGRETHE, eldest daughter of Hermann and Catharine Fasting, aged 2 years, 11 months and 26 days.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, this (Friday) afternoon, at half-past one o'clock, from the residence of her parents, No. 1 Crosby street. The remains will be taken to the Lutheran Cemetery for interment.

FLOCK.—On Wednesday, April 1, after a short but severe illness, the widow of Francis Flock, aged 53 years and 3 months.

The friends and relatives are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, this (Friday) afternoon, at two o'clock, from her late residence, 112 Greenwich street.

GUTIERREZ.—In Paris, France, on Wednesday, February 25, FERNANDO C. GUTIERREZ, aged 24 years.

The friends of the family, and of his uncle, James M. Shaw, are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from 93 Madison street, on Saturday afternoon, at two o'clock, without further notice.

HAYT.—On Wednesday, April 1, at the residence of William E. Curtis, No. 98 East Fifteenth street, SOPHIA M. HAYT, daughter of the late Monson Hayt, Esq., aged 68 years.

The funeral services will be held at St. James' Church, Newtown, Long Island, this (Friday) afternoon, at three o'clock. Cars leave James slip at two o'clock P. M.

HENNERS.—On Wednesday, April 1, LENA E. HENNERS, youngest child of Lena and Elde H. Henners, aged 1 year, 6 months and 22 days.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral this (Friday) afternoon at one o'clock, from the residence of her parents, No. 3 Franklin terrace, in Twenty-sixth street, near Ninth avenue.

HUNTER.—On Tuesday, March 31, at Alton, Ill., Mrs. ELMIRA HUNTER, formerly Mrs. Wm. Leggett, and daughter of the late Jonathan Waring.

Her remains will be taken to New Rochelle for interment.

JONES.—On Thursday, April 2, in the 40th year of his age, JOHN JONES, a native of Holkin, Flintshire, Wales.

The members of the Ancient Britons and the St. David's Benefit Societies, and his friends, are requested to attend the funeral, from St. David's Hall, No. 93 Canal street, this (Friday) aftern