NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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

Volume XXIX .....No. 50

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Irving Place.—THE OPERA—Matinee at One o'Clock—NORMA.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—CONNIE SOOGAH.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway.—ROSEDALE.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway.—TICKET OF LEAVE MAN.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway.—CURIOUS CASE—PRIDE OF THE MARKET.

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—TICKET OF LEAVE MAN—DUKE OF GANDIA—HIBERNIAN M. D.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT—NORAH O'DONNELL—VAGABONDS.

BARNUM'S MUSEUM, Broadway.—FOUR GIANTS, TWO DWARFS, ALBINOS, WHAT IS IT, &c., as all hours. HALVES—At 3 and 7½ P. M.

BRYANTS' MINSTRELS, Mechanics' Hall, 472 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN SONGS, DANCES, BURLESQUES, &c.—MAZEPPA.

WOOD'S MINSTREL HALL, 514 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN SONGS, DANCES, &c.—AMERICAN OPERA, OH! HUSH.

AMERICAN THEATRE, No. 444 Broadway.—BALLETS, PANTOMIMES, BURLESQUES, &c.—MAZULME.

BROADWAY AMPHITHEATRE, 485 Broadway.—GYMNASTIC AND EQUESTRIAN PERFORMANCES. Afternoon and Evening.

HOPE CHAPEL, 718 Broadway.—THE STEREOSCOPTICON OR MIRROR OF THE UNIVERSE.

PERHAM'S, 585 Broadway.—STEREOSCOPTICON AND MIRROR OF THE REBELLION.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 618 Broadway.—CURIOSITIES AND LECTURES, from 9 A. M. till 10 P. M.

HOOLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—ETHIOPIAN SONGS, DANCES, BURLESQUES, &c.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Saturday, February 20, 1864

THE SITUATION.

The news from the Southwest to-day is important.

The latest account from General Sherman's expedition reports that he has destroyed the bridges on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, thereby severing the connection between General Polk's forces. He had advanced to a point between Polk and Montgomery. Mobile rebel papers report a battle at Enterprise, Miss., with unknown results.

General Longstreet is reported to be in retreat beyond French Broad river to avoid the movement of our forces. Nashville and Knoxville are now connected by railroad, with the exception of about 700 yards at the bridge at Loudon, which will be repaired in a few days.

General Johnston has concentrated his troops at Dalton, with picket lines advanced to Ringgold, but he is not in a position to reinforce General Polk.

Governor Brown, of Georgia, has ordered all citizens, with their property, to move to the east side of the Chattahoochee river, on pain of having their property confiscated.

The news from Florida is highly important, and will be read with more than ordinary interest by the general public. General Gillmore's expedition to that State has been crowned with complete success. The rebels offered considerable opposition to the progress of our arms in different parts of the country, but the spirited and well disciplined Union troops broke through every barrier and carried their flag onward to victory. The letter of our correspondent who accompanies the expedition fully details all the movements of the army, from the time of its departure to the period of the last skirmish with the rebels. Among many most extraordinary things brought to light by this "invasion" is a document, emanating from the Commissariat Department of Quincy, Florida, in which there is startling evidence to be found of the desperate condition of the enemy. Beef and bacon are entirely exhausted throughout the South, and from all quarters cries are arising for relief from Florida. This circular was intended only for private circulation among "the prudent people of the South."

General Gillmore's official account, together with a map of the locality, will be found with our correspondent's despatches.

News from New Orleans to the 9th, by the steamer Havana, reports that on the Sunday previous General Dick Taylor attacked our troops stationed opposite Natchez, and was repulsed with considerable loss and driven six miles. The attack was renewed the next morning, when the rebels were unsuccessful, being again repulsed with loss. Their force numbered three thousand. We give a map of the scene of action in our columns to-day.

General Grover has scoured the country with his cavalry in the neighborhood of Madisonville, across Lake Pontchartrain, broken up conscript camps within a circle of fifty or sixty miles, and captured several of the enemy. A large quantity of beef cattle, sheep and horses have been brought in.

The only report from the Potomac army is that twenty-eight of Mosby's guerillas were captured at Piedmont by some of General Gregg's men.

General Kelley telegraphs to General Halleck an account of the capture of the notorious guerilla chief Dan Duskey, with seventeen of his men, which we mentioned yesterday. Our scouting parties are picking up quite a number of prisoners in West Virginia.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

The steamship City of Manchester, from Queenstown on the 4th inst., reached this port yesterday. Her news is four days later, and of a very important character.

The united forces of Germany, including contingents from Austria and Prussia, were in actual conflict with Denmark. Hostilities commenced on the 1st inst., when the allied troops of Prussia and Austria crossed the Elder and entered the territory of Schleswig. This was followed by a movement against the Danish defences of the duchies situated on the rivers Schley and Sorge. The Prussians attacked the works at Missunde very vigorously; but the Danes held their ground, repulsing their enemies. Some hundreds were killed and wounded on both sides. The Danes had two officers killed and four wounded. On the 3d inst. the Austrians attacked the Danes at Bristorf, and were also repulsed. Prussian batteries had fired on two Danish men-of-war in Eckernford bay, and the Danes had embargoed the German shipping in the Baltic. A detailed account of the progress of movements is published in the HERALD to-day, with a description of the great Danish defence of the Dannewerk.

The English Parliament was opened on the 4th instant by commission. The Queen's speech declares that all the endeavors of the government would be directed towards the sustainment of peace in Germany; but when it was delivered the Powers had been two days at war. Napoleon, it was said, would leave all the danger and glory of intervention to England. It was hinted that neither Russia nor France would support England's policy on the troubled question.

Queen Victoria makes no allusion to American affairs, except the indirect one expressed in a hope that cotton will flow into England from many new sources. The London *Times* is of opinion that Mr. Seward does not seriously intend to claim indemnity for the Union losses sustained by the ravages of the Alabama.

The Alabama was lying in fifty miles south of Rangoon, India, on the 5th of January—very positive proof that she was not blockaded at Amoy, China, on the 2d of the month. She was watching for American vessels engaged in the rice and other Eastern trades.

Consols closed in London on the 4th inst. at 90 a 90⅛ for money. The Liverpool cotton market was irregular on the 3d, and closed quiet, with prices unchanged, on the 4th instant. Breadstuffs were firm, with rates unchanged. Provisions were quiet and steady.

CONGRESS.

In the Senate yesterday a bill providing for the occupation of abandoned estates in insurrectionary districts, and for the employment of negroes set free by the President's proclamation, was referred to the Committee on Slavery and Freedmen. The report of the Conference Committee on the Enrolment bill was called up, a long debate ensued, and the bill was finally passed by a vote of twenty-six against sixteen. The Senate then adourned till Tuesday.

In the House of Representatives a resolution was adopted authorizing the committee charged with the investigation of the New York Custom House affairs to take testimony in New York. A bill providing for the occupation of abandoned plantations in the South, and for taking care of negroes set free by the President's proclamation, was appropriately referred. The resolution authorizing the transfer of seamen in the army to the naval service was adopted. The House then agreed to order the printing of ten thousand additional copies of General McClellan's report. Mr. Stevens, chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, reported back the bill authorizing the sale of the surplus gold in the Treasury, with a recommendation that it do not pass; but no action was taken on the subject. The Conference Committee's report on the Enrolment bill was presented, and agreed to by a vote of seventy-one against twenty-three. All the private bills on the calendar, except one appropriating ten thousand dollars for houses burned in Virginia, were passed, and the House adjourned till Tuesday.

THE LEGISLATURE.

In the State Senate yesterday a resolution was adopted authorizing the State Comptroller to borrow additional money to pay the State bounty to volunteers, in anticipation of further and more decisive legislative action on the subject. Several bills were passed. Few of them, however, were of general interest. Among them was the one incorporating the National Club of this city, for the promotion of literature and the arts. The bill to legalize the Common Council grant to the Harlem Railroad Company to lay and operate a railroad in Broadway and other streets was among those introduced. A motion to lay it on the table was defeated by a vote of eight to twelve, and it was given in charge of the Railroad Committee. A bill was also introduced relative to fees for searches in the New York County Clerk's office. The Committee on Charitable Societies were instructed to investigate certain charges relative to the care and condition of the State pupils in the Blind Asylum. The Senate, in accordance with the joint resolution adopted a few days ago, adjourned to the 29th inst.

In the Assembly the bill amendatory of the General Bounty act was passed. Bills were introduced for a railroad in lower Broadway, running from Chambers street to South ferry, the fare to be three cents; for a department of real estate in our city government; relative to our police courts, and to authorize the appointment by our Mayor of a commission whose duty it shall be to investigate the charges of fraud against city officials. In case the proof is sufficient, the bill gives the Mayor the power of removal. Favorable reports were made from committees on the Grand street and South Ferries Railroad bill and on the bill to authorize the Belt Railroad Company to change their route on the North river side from one street to another for a short distance. Notices were given of bills to abolish the district courts of this city, for a railroad on Grand street, and to incorporate the Home for Disabled Soldiers. A large amount of other business of less importance was transacted, and the Assembly adjourned for the recess, which continues till Monday, the 29th inst.

Up to last evening thirty bills had been passed in both houses of the Legislature and placed in Governor Seymour's hands. Of these the Governor had signed fifteen.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

By the arrival of the new steamer Havana we have received our usual files of Spanish newspapers and correspondence from the Island of Cuba to the 13th inst. There was nothing of particular importance transpiring on the island up to the day the steamer left. The carnival was over, and the righteous churchgoers were settling down to penitence, "in sackcloth and ashes," during the stern days of Lent. There is no news from Mexico or St. Domingo worth more than a passing mention.

The Re d'Italia, built by Mr. W. H. Webb, of this city, for the royal Italian navy, returned to her anchorage off the Battery last evening, having been absent since Wednesday on a trial trip with a view to test her speed. She ran under an average pressure of twenty pounds of steam, making forty-seven revolutions of the screw, at the rate of twelve and three-quarter knots per hour. She is over six thousand tons, and such speed is unequalled by any iron-clad afloat. The ship and her engines, which were built at the Novelty Iron Works, are considered a perfect and unqualified success, and are pronounced so by the commission of Italian officers now in this country, as well as by our own people.

Provost Marshal Townsend has received a communication from General Fry informing him that districts will be credited on the call for five hundred thousand men with all enlisted from the 7th of July, 1863, to March 9, 1864, and with all drafted men who have responded in person, by commutation or with substitutes.

In the Board of Supervisors yesterday the county tax levy for the current year was adopted, amounting to five millions eight hundred and fifty-four thousand nine hundred and nine dollars and sixty-five cents.

In the United States Circuit Court yesterday Geo. W. Cunningham was arraigned and pleaded not guilty to two indictments, one charging him with having in the month of August, 1862, on the high seas, scuttled the ship Senator, then proceeding from this port with a cargo of provisions for the poor of Ireland; the other charging him with abandoning said vessel when no urgent necessity existed therefor. The final hearing of the case is set down for Monday, the 7th of March next.

Charles Hurd, second officer of the American ship Swallow, was found guilty of inflicting cruel and unusual punishment on John Russel, one of the crew of said vessel, while on a voyage from Callao to Hamburg, by reason of which he died. The evidence disclosed a systematic course of ill and cruel treatment by the prisoner to the unfortunate deceased. In passing sentence Judge Shipman said that the cruelty of captains and officers on board ships was a disgrace to the American commercial marine, and whenever a captain or first officer came before him on an indictment of the kind he would inflict the extreme penalty of the law. Hurd had been nine months in prison. The sentence of the Court consigned him to further imprisonment for one year and ten months and to pay a fine of $500.

The action brought by Michael Gilhooly against O'Keefe & Duryea, proprietors of the Broadway and Cortlandt street line of omnibuses, was not dismissed by Judge Hearn because the plaintiff failed to prove negligence on the part of the driver. A motion for a non-suit was made by the counsel for the defence on its appearing in evidence that one of the defendants had died before the service of the summons, and it was upon this ground that the Court dismissed the complaint.

In the Court of Sessions yesterday, Judge Russel presiding, Louisa Brady pleaded guilty of having stolen a watch and chain valued at $40 from Thomas Moran on the 19th ult. She was jointly indicted with Mary Wilson, who was convicted of petit larceny on Monday last, and a plea of guilty of a similar offence was accepted in the present case. Sentenced to the Penitentiary for six months. Catharine Ryan, an Irish servant girl, was tried and convicted of having picked the pocket of Mary Powers of $35 in bank bills on the 5th inst., and was sentenced to the State Prison for two years. Sarah Roach was tried and convicted of grand larceny. The indictment charges that about the 2d of December last she stole a quantity of jewelry and a marseilles bed quilt, in all valued at $99, from No. 641 Sixth avenue. She confessed having stolen the quilt, but denied all knowledge of the theft of the jewelry. She was remanded for sentence. The Grand Jury made a presentment in relation to the great moral and social evils resulting from the liquor traffic, and suggested as a remedy the vigorous enforcement of the excise laws. They were then discharged for the term.

The stock market had an upward tendency again yesterday, and orders were as plenty as brokers could find time to fill. The strongest stocks on the list were the New York railroads, which seem just now to be the most sought after. The resolution before Congress authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to dispose of the surplus coin in the government vaults had the effect of reducing the premium on gold yesterday one per cent; but it afterwards recovered, and closed at 159¼. Government securities were strong and in demand at steadily increasing prices. Money continues easy at six per cent.

In view of the recession of gold, there was scarcely so much of buoyancy and firmness in business places yesterday; yet in many commodities a fair business was reported. The plenitude of available capital had a tendency to stimulate transactions; but this was counteracted by the uncertainties regarding gold quotations. On 'Change business was extremely dull. The drop in gold carried with it a corresponding decline in flour, wheat and whiskey. Hog products were less firm, though without marked change in price. Breadstuffs active at steady prices. Freights were stiff, owing to the reduced supply of room on the berths; but the engagements were moderate. The market later in the day was excited by the advices per the City of Manchester, when rates were largely advanced. 5d. was refused by American vessels for wheat. Cotton was steady. Groceries were rather quiet. Petroleum was steady for crude and firm for refined.

A European War—Commencement of Hostilities.

The news from Schleswig brought by the City of Manchester is of a highly important character. The conflict, the prospect of which has so disquieted the public mind in Europe, has commenced. The first blood has been drawn, and momentous events are likely to follow. Although fresh efforts in favor of peace are talked of, we do not see how matters can be restored to the footing which would render such a solution easy of accomplishment.

Our previous accounts left the Danish Cabinet in possession of the ultimatum of the two leading German Powers. It was rejected, as we anticipated, and thereupon the Austro-Prussian force received orders to advance into Schleswig. On the 1st the Prussians crossed the Eider and proceeded in the direction of Gotthorp and Eckernford, whilst the Austrian contingent entered the Kronenwerk at Rendsburg. This movement compelled the Danish troops to fall back to the Schley (the creek on which the town of Schleswig is situated), and to defend the works at Missunde, which is just inside the entrance of the inlet. The plan of the invading force was, it appears, for the Prussian army to force a passage at this latter point, whilst the Austrians were to make an attack upon the central part of the fortified lines.

In order that our readers may clearly understand these movements, we give elsewhere a description of the Dannewerk—the great Danish bulwark of the Duchy of Schleswig. It consists of three enormous earthworks, stretching across the entire peninsula. They are in immediate connection with the river Schley on the eastern side, and with the river Treene on the other; so that it is in the power of the Danish forces at any time to flood some sixty-four square miles of land in front of their works, thus rendering them almost impregnable.

On the 2d the Prussians attacked the Danes near Missunde, on the Schley, and after six hours' hard fighting were repulsed, with a loss of from two hundred and fifty to three hundred men, the Danes losing from one hundred and fifty to two hundred. On the 3d the Austrians assaulted Bistore, a mile south of Schleswig, but made no impression. The amount of loss is not stated. A general attack on the Danish line, from Missunde to Agel, was to take place on the following day. Thus matters stood at the last accounts.

It remains to be seen what part England and France will take now that hostilities have fairly commenced. From the indications thus far we incline to the opinion that the former will back out of her engagements and leave Denmark to her fate. It is significant that, although the Queen's speech to Parliament was delivered after the news of the fighting had reached London, no allusion was made to it in that document. As regards the French Emperor, if we are to credit the Paris correspondence of the London *Times*, he is resolved to remain a quiet spectator of the contest, leaving to England "all the difficulty and all the glory of intervention." He has not abandoned the hope of the question being still referred to a congress; but he may be disappointed. Once blood has been shed, it is difficult to arrest the course of events.

It would be a just retribution if, now that we have nearly finished the work of crushing the rebellion, Great Britain and France, which have given it so much moral and material aid, were to be dragged into the vortex of a European convulsion. The time is probably close at hand when we shall be in a condition to turn against the commerce of those countries the new fangled doctrines of international law which have been incorporated into the code for the purpose of annihilating our own.

THE GOLD QUESTION IN CONGRESS.—In the discussion of the very sensible resolution offered in Congress the other day, authorising the Secretary of the Treasury to sell his surplus gold (some nineteen millions in all being on hand, or a surplus of twelve millions beyond the current necessities of the public debt), several of the members from this city participated. Hon. Fernando Wood satisfied himself with calling the attention of the House to the subject, and stopped there, for fear, perhaps, of making a botch of it in expounding his peculiar views upon the question. The Hon. James Brooks, in a roundabout way, sided with Lamar and the gold gamblers in keeping up the price of gold. But there was one of our Representatives, Mr. Stebbins, who fairly, fully, and like a practical statesman, met the question in favor of the proposed authority to sell. He did not hesitate to take a square and decided position in favor of the Treasury and the people, against the gold gamblers. He regarded the question as one in which the community were interested with the Treasury and the necessities of the nation. Mr. Stebbins thus faithfully represents the interests of his constituents in this matter, and deserves especial mention as the solitary member from this city possessing sense enough and courage enough, in spite of party, to do his duty to the country.

PRIVATE MILES O'REILLY—LITERARY AND POLITICAL—A BIG JOKE.—Private Miles O'Reilly, of the United States Army, has found a publisher in Carleton, of this city, and is to give to the world to-day or Monday, or some day soon, a collection of his jokes and funny stories, with some "modern instances" that have happened in Secessia, and the description of which has not yet seen the light. By this publication Miles will enter into distinguished competition with our worthy President himself as a teller of funny stories. If Mr. Lincoln comes before the country as a candidate for the Presidency on the platform on which he has been placed by our fellow citizen and contemporary, Mr. Bryant, of the *Evening Post*, he comes forward clearly and distinctly as a joker, and O'Reilly would, on the same platform, be a very formidable candidate against him. This reminds us of a story about Old Abe and the first year of the war. In that year there was in the Union service in Missouri a straightforward, sturdy, honest and somewhat blunt soldier of the old army, known to the country as General Sturgis. Sturgis was engaged in fighting the rebels with all his might. He was in the thick of the Western melee, and wherever the rebellion showed its head he hit it. One day he was waited upon by some politicians, who asked him sundry questions about the war, and finally about the nigger. "Nigger!" said Sturgis, "nigger! I'm busy here fighting the rebels. I don't know anything about the nigger. Damn the nigger!" From this reply the politicians at once guessed that Sturgis was not sound on what is called the goose; and, as they had influence with the War Department, and used it, Sturgis was soon after removed and put out of active service. His crime was that he "didn't care a damn about the nigger;" but he did not know the nature of his crime, and he went to Washington to learn the cause of his sudden removal, and to ask for justice; for there is a popular delusion that justice is to be had in that city. He called at the War Department; but Stanton felt large and important; like the frog that tried to be a bull, he was embarrassed by his greatness, was in a bad temper, and was not to be seen. As Sturgis told his story to some one, he was asked if he had seen the President. He replied that he knew his position too well to go to the White House; the etiquette of the service, he thought, required that he should not look beyond the War Department. But, as he was strongly urged to go at once to Old Abe, he went. He was received by Old Abe and began to tell his grievance; but while he was in the very preface he was interrupted with the President's usual phrase:—"That," said Lincoln, "reminds me of a story;" and thereupon out came a story from Old Abe. Now this story was rather broad, and Sturgis was at first rather astonished by it; but, like a true soldier, he soon rallied, and then he in his turn told a story of the same character, and a little broader than Old Abe's. "That's good," said Abe; and then he told another and broader still. Thereupon Sturgis came out with a two hundred-pounder—a regular old sockdologer of a camp story—beyond which there is nothing. Abe at once gave up and came down, and made a frank and free acknowledgment, as he sometimes can, that he was beaten. Sturgis was told to call on the next day, and assured that, whatever his grievance was, it should be made all right, and that whatever he wanted he should have.

Now, since Old Abe's idea is that he who can tell the best story is the best man, and that one who can tell a real old side splitter and skull cracker is fit for any position, it is not impossible that the people may adopt this idea, and begin to measure men in this same way; and if they should thus chance to put Miles O'Reilly and Abe Lincoln in comparison as jokers and story tellers, it is our opinion that Miles will be found a very formidable candidate for Abe to run against.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES—SOLDIERS AND POLITICIANS.—There was a reception given on Thursday to the gallant First New York cavalry, veterans, who have escaped the fate of those hundreds of thousands sacrificed by the would-be rival of Alexander, Cæsar and Napoleon—Old Abe. These brave soldiers (the First cavalry) were the recipients of a flattering display of welcome on the part of our citizens, and also of a more substantial testimonial—a grand dinner at the Jefferson Market drill room. After having done justice to the good things provided for them, the soldiers were welcomed by the chairman of the Committee on National Affairs, and their colonel responded in a neat speech. To add to the pleasurable emotions of this festive scene, General McClellan was announced. The moment the men heard his name they became excited; the most enthusiastic cheers greeted "Little Mac," who was forced to make a short address to the "boys." He spoke to them feelingly, expressing a hope that he might again serve with them. The General's words produced a profound effect upon the soldiers, who seemed one and all determined to embrace him.

It is such men as Generals Grant, McClellan, Thomas, Sherman, Gillmore and others of like merit who must now rule the destinies of this great country, and not the speculating, greedy politicians and shoddy men, who seek to retain a power which has already caused so much loss and suffering to the country. As a contrast to the military reception we have above referred to, we will state that on Thursday evening there took place a meeting of the schemers and politicians whom we wish to stigmatize. Prominent among the forty-five and a half who attended this political meeting was Sim. Draper, eager for office and the continuance in power of those who give the spoils. The half was a nigger.

The grand and enthusiastic reception and the mean, paltry meeting perfectly represent the parties which shall rule the destinies of this great republic, and those who, for the sake of personal gain or aggrandizement, wish to continue their mismanagement and maladministration of our affairs. But we are upon the eve of a great revolution in our government, when the true, the honest and the capable shall undo the work of the petty, the mean and dishonest, and retrieve the impaired glory of the Union.

BROADWAY RAILROAD.—The notice of the bill given in the Senate on Thursday to authorize the New York and Harlem Railroad Company to lay down their rails in Broadway opens the contest for the possession of this valuable franchise. The movement was to be anticipated from the recent upward jump of Harlem stock, which could only be accounted for by the near introduction of some such measure. It had been purposely held back to give the company time to mature its plans—or, in other words, to organize a formidable lobby. Now that the bill is fairly launched, each day's developments will show that a large amount of money has been employed to secure its passage.

We warn the Legislature that if it gives away this franchise to the Harlem Company it will expose itself to the imputation of having been bought up by its managers. There can be no other reasonable explanation of its doing so. No one but the speculators interested has asked for the line. The New York public are, on the contrary, strongly opposed to it, because they believe that it will have the effect of aggravating the inconvenience caused by the present crowded condition of Broadway and of otherwise injuring that beautiful thoroughfare. As to the property holders, they are almost to a man against it. They know well that the result of the passage of the bill would be to immediately reduce the value of real estate in Broadway twenty-five per cent, and to permanently drive a large proportion of its business into the side streets. If, then, neither the property holders nor the community at large desire the line, what justification is there for damaging the interests that must be affected by its introduction? The terms offered by the company of a percentage on the receipts in no way alter this view. They might entitle the measure to favorable consideration if the necessity of the line could be satisfactorily established. But the reverse is the fact, and all that they prove is that the Harlem managers are conscious of the weakness of their case, and want to fortify it by proposing such terms for the franchise as will help to disarm opposition.

We repeat that if the Legislature authorizes the line it will commit an act of gross injustice and oppression. It will help to confirm the opinion that is rapidly gaining ground among the people of this metropolis—that they have nothing to look for from Albany legislation but spoliation and robbery.

The Grand Jury Among the Liquor Dealers.

PRESENTMENT BY THE GRAND JURY—NECESSITY FOR A VIGOROUS ENFORCEMENT OF THE EXCISE LAWS.

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS.

Before City Judge Russel.

FEB. 19.—The Grand Jury came into Court this morning and made the following important presentment in relation to the moral and social evils resulting from the liquor traffic:—

The Grand Jury turn from the sad details of crime they have been compelled to investigate with a profound conviction that all attempts to repress or punish vice and crime will prove comparatively fruitless so long as the flood gates of intemperance are open night and day. Our criminal courts are powerless for the protection of society, with eight thousand or ten thousand lawless and irresponsible dealers in intoxicating drinks arrayed against them and multiplying their victims by tens of thousands. It is futile to hammer with the results, while ignoring the causes of abounding iniquity. Under all civilized governments the traffic in intoxicating drinks is carefully hedged about and restrained by law, the burdens it everywhere imposes on society in the increase of pauperism, taxation and crime are partially compensated by the exaction of heavy license fees and under all well ordered governments no statutes are more rigidly enforced than those relating to excise. In this city, on the contrary, the traffickers in liquor openly defy its enforcement. The Excise act of the State requires that a license shall be first had and obtained before any person shall vend intoxicating drinks of any sort—the minimum license fee being $50, which has been the amount fixed by our Excise Commissioners. But of the 8,000 or 10,000 men engaged in this traffic, the whole number submitting to law and taking out licences in 1863 was only 361, leaving a number equal to any army division of open contemners of law and robbers of the city treasury. The same attitude of defiance has been maintained for seven years, thus withholding a million of dollars or more from the treasury, while adding many millions to the local burdens, and contributing in untold volume to the aggregate of our sanitary, moral and social miseries. The opinion of Recorder Barnard, as expressed in his charge to the Grand Jury in December, 1858, undoubtedly applies to the abominable decoctions of the dram shops in 1864—"It would be safe to say that at least nine-tenths of the liquors sold in New York were adulterated with the most deleterious poisons." We have well organized police and judiciary systems. All questions arising under the Excise act have been adjudicated and settled, and all attempts to repeal or modify the law have been unsuccessful. But it is systematically and openly violated thousands of times daily, and there is hardly a single known instance of punishment on record, and scarcely any attempt to enforce the law. Justice is meted out to the hapless victims of the liquor traffic; it is paralyzed when it touches the traffic itself. In the judgment of the Grand Jury the cause of public morals and of good government would be promoted were a part at least of the machinery of criminal justice diverted from the attempt to arrest crime in its accomplished forms, and directed to the task of subjecting to law the known authors and promoters of drunkenness and crime—to the draining of the fountain, instead of drying up the streams—to the mending of the dyke, instead of chasing the inflowing waters. The Grand Jury believe that some practical remedy for the evils thus exposed is demanded by every consideration of municipal self-respect, public security and the supremacy of a government of law, and they would respectfully request the Senate and Assembly in session to provide such a remedy. Were the police force, under the direction of the Commissioners and Superintendent, authorized to deal summarily with unlawful liquor sellers, or, if they are with cunning foresight, the instruments of their craft to be destroyed—(see section 44 of the act establishing the Metropolitan Police District, 1860)—or were patrolmen required to close every dram shop whose keeper fails to exhibit a license for his traffic, it is believed that a chronic evil of gigantic magnitude would be abated, with no injustice to offenders, but with untold benefits to society. The jury cannot perceive why a junk cart or a hackney coach lacking an inscribed number or a list of fares should be summarily ejected from the streets, while those streets are lined and cornered by establishments notoriously violating similar but more stringent and more needful laws with impunity. Our only safety as a city lies in the equal administration of just laws and in the subjection of all classes to rightful authority.

They were then discharged for the term.

Military Affairs.

THE FIFTY-FIRST REGIMENT NEW YORK STATE VOLUNTEERS.

The officers and men of the Fifty-first New York Volunteers on recruiting service are relieved from duty, and are ordered to Fort Schuyler on the 20th inst. They are to report to Lieutenant Colonel Mitchell. A boat leaves Castle Garden at half past ten o'clock to day to convey them to Fort Schuyler.

Non-Arrival of the Bohemian.

PORTLAND, Feb. 19—Midnight.

There are no signs of the steamship Bohemian.

The Arabia at Halifax.

HALIFAX, Feb. 19, 1864.

The Arabia, from Boston, arrived at nine o'clock and will sail at eleven this evening.

Coroner's Inquest.

THE TWENTY-NINTH STREET ABORTION CASE—CONCLUSION OF THE INVESTIGATION—VERDICT AGAINST DR. DENNIS.

Coroner Ranney yesterday concluded the inquisition commenced on Wednesday in the case of Anne Killean, who died at 116 East Twenty-ninth street from the effects of an abortion which had been produced upon her, as reported in yesterday's HERALD. Much testimony was taken, but it is quite unfit for publication, and of an unimportant character. Drs. H. D. Ranney, Rogers and Feenner made a post mortem examination of the body and found indications of an abortion having been produced; but it did not positively appear that mechanical means had been resorted to by the abortionist. After hearing all the testimony the case was submitted to the jury, who rendered a verdict as follows:—"That the jury, who rendered a verdict] as follows:—"That Anne Killean, the deceased, came to her death by metro-peritonitis, the result of an abortion produced by Dr. J. H. Dennis, of No. 6 Bleecker street." On this verdict the accused was required to furnish bail in the sum of five thousand dollars to answer any indictment which the Grand Jury may find against him. He readily procured a bondsman, and was liberated from custody. Dr. Dennis is sixty-two years of age, and a native of New Jersey.

IMPORTANT FROM WASHINGTON.

Final Passage of the Enrolment Bill in Both Houses.

Synopsis of the Provisions of the Act.

Action of the House on the Proposition to Sell the Gold in the Treasury.

Probable Reorganization of the Army of the Potomac,

&c., &c., &c.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19, 1864.

THE PROPOSED SALE OF SURPLUS GOLD.

The Committee on Ways and Means this afternoon reported back the Gold bill and amendments, which were recommitted to them yesterday, with a recommendation that it do not pass. No action was taken upon it by the House; but there is every reason to believe that it will pass both houses of Congress, as it is ardently desired by the Secretary of the Treasury, and the measure has the full favor of the government.

Before the adjournment of the House to day, Representative Stebbins said the Committee of Ways and Means desired again to consider the joint resolution authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to sell the surplus gold, and which Mr. Stevens had previously reported with a recommendation that it do not pass. Unanimous consent was required for again referring the resolution to that committee, but Representative Holman interposed an objection.

TRANSFER OF SEAMEN FROM THE ARMY TO THE NAVY.

Mr. Conness' joint resolution, adopted in the Senate yesterday, authorizing the immediate transfer of seamen from the military to the naval service, was passed in the House to-day without opposition, the exigencies of the service on the Pacific coast being regarded as of such an imperative nature as to render immediate action not only necessary but indispensable.

PASSAGE OF THE ENROLMENT BILL.

The amendments to the Enrolment law reported by the Conference Committee of the Senate and House were finally adopted by both Houses to-day. The clause freeing slaves who may be drafted, without providing for compensation to their owners was, strongly opposed in the Senate by Messrs. Davis and Powell of Kentucky, Reverdy Johnson of Maryland, and Carlile of West Virginia, though the latter finally voted for the bill. When it reached the House more than half of the democratic members had left, it being late, and it being generally supposed that it would not come up to-day. There was consequently but little opposition to its passage, although nearly all of the democrats present voted against it.

Under that clause of the act authorizing the transfer of seamen from the army to the navy, under such regulations as the President and Secretary of the Navy might direct, it is thought that the difficulty under which the navy has been laboring for the last year from the lack of sailors will be done away with, and that in a short time the Department will be able to put in commission a number of its vessels which have been laid up from the want of sailors to man them, and fill up the complement of others which have had scarcely enough to keep them afloat.

The consolidation of classes, and omission of other causes for exemption under which so large a number were relieved from service, will largely increase the number from which the next draft is to be made, and will, it is believed, enable the government to fill up the armies to the necessary extent to insure a vigorous prosecution of the spring and summer campaign.

THE WHISKEY TAX.

The Internal Revenue bill, as it passed through both houses of Congress, did not exempt foreign spirits in transitu or on shipboard from the new tax proposed by that measure, but it is understood that the joint committee of conference has, at the instance and through the influence of representation—Mr. Fernando Wood agreed to amend the bill by exempting such spirits. The importers of New York have thus been saved large sums.

THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

There is no doubt that at an early day the Army of the Potomac will be consolidated into three grand corps d'armee. Generals Sedgwick, Hancock and Couch are mentioned as their commanders.

THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL PRESIDENTIAL CONVENTION.

The National Committee of the republican party are to meet here on Monday, and arrange the time and place for holding the National Nominating Convention.

THIRTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

Senate.

WASHINGTON, Feb 19, 1864.

THE CASE OF CHARLES DE ANNA DISMISSED.

Mr. CLARK, (rep.) of N. H., presented from the Committee on claims the petition of Charles De Anna, and asked that the committee be discharged from its further consideration, and that it be referred to the Committee on Military Affairs. He said the petitioner made no claim, but merely complained that the Senate had not made him a brigadier, and that General Halleck had refused him an opportunity to gain distinction in the field or an honorable death. The committee was discharged from the consideration of the subject and the matter indefinitely postponed.

KANSAS STATE HOUSE.

Mr LANE, (rep.) of KANSAS, announced his intention to introduce a bill for the erection of a State House at the seat of government in Kansas.

PLATTSBURG A PORT OF ENTRY.

Mr. MORGAN, (rep.) of N. Y., introduced a bill for the establishment of a proper port of entry into Lake Champlain at Plattsburg, and for other purposes. Referred to the Committee on Commerce.

JUDICIARY MATTERS.

Mr. HENDRICKS, (opp.) of Ind., introduced a bill authorizing the transfer of indictments from the District to the Circuit courts of the United States. Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

CARE OF ABANDONED ESTATES, ETC.

Mr. FOSTER, (rep.) of Conn., introduced a bill to provide for the renting of abandoned lands, tenements and houses in the insurrectionary States, and for the care and employment of persons therein set free by the proclamation of the President, which was referred to the Committee on Slavery and Freedmen.

This bill legalizes the action of the Secretary of the Treasury, to whom the matter was referred by the Secretary of War, in appointing supervising agents and making regulations for the employment of negroes and the leasing of lands. It also provides for suitable military protection, furnished by the Secretary of War, so far as it may not interfere with the regular operations of the campaign. It places the control of these interests in the hands of the Secretary of the Treasury, and authorizes him to pay suitable expenses of such operations out of the profits arising from the labor of slaves, or the sale of confiscated property under a former act of Congress.

NAVY YARD AT NEWCASTLE, DEL.

On motion of Mr. RIDDLE, (opp.) of Del., the Committee on Naval Affairs was instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a navy yard at Newcastle, Delaware. Mr. Riddle briefly set forth the advantages of this location in respect to its facilities for coal and other articles required in naval construction.

THE ENROLMENT BILL.

Mr. WILSON, (rep.) of Mass., called up the report of the Committee of Conference on the disagreement to the Enrolment bill.

Mr. HENDRICKS would inquire how long the payment of commutation money would exempt a man?

Mr. WILSON explained that it would exempt for one year and no longer. The sum agreed upon seemed to mean a bounty for one year only.

Mr. SHERMAN, (rep.) of Ohio, thought that no one could understand the bill as it was before the Senate. As he understood it the money provided to be paid as commutation was considered as an equivalent for the soldier.

Mr. LANE, (rep.) of Ind., would vote against the bill, as he was against the commutation clause contained in it.

Mr. WILKINSON, (rep.) of Minn., would also vote against the bill, as he did not think the House had improved the clause for securing substitutes for the army. He believed these slaves were worth as much to the country as minor whites. He never would consent to have any distinction made between the able bodied men of the country. In a year and a half from now the slaves of the border States would not be worth one cent, for he believed that slavery was going by the board. Notwithstanding what he had said, he thought there was a great advance on the provisions of this bill, which frees slaves.

Mr. TEN EYCK, (rep.) of N. J., would support the bill as presented from the Committee of Conference, as he believed it would materially aid in filling up the armies of the United States to their proper standard.

Mr. DAVIS, (opp.) of Ky., said if it was competent for Congress to surrender to the President the unconstitutional power to raise armies in this country to the utmost extent of its population, it was equally competent to render power to him to support these armies. He denied the power to do either of these things under the constitution. Another vital objection he had to the bill was that it authorized the raising of negro troops, and also gives them their freedom. The last objection he would make was that the bill, as reported from the Conference Committee, was a perfect maze, which nobody could explore. He should vote against it.

Mr. LANE, (rep.) of Kansas, would have preferred that