

NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BROWN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Irving Place. ITALIAN OPERA.

MILLO'S GARDEN, Broadway. THE DUKE'S MOTTO.

WALLACE'S THEATRE, Broadway. ROBERT.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway. TICKET OF LEAVE.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway. TAKING A BUTTER.

NEW BOVEY THEATRE, BOWERY. TICKET OF LEAVE.

BOVEY THEATRE, BOWERY. TICKET OF LEAVE.

BARNUMS MUSEUM, Broadway. FOUR CHARACTERS.

BRAYS MINSTRELS, Broadway. 47 BROADWAY.

WOODS MINSTREL HALL, 51 BROADWAY.

AMERICAN THEATRE, No. 41 Broadway.

BROADWAY AMPHITHEATRE, 51 Broadway.

HYPOCOTIZATION, Fourteenth Street.

HOPE CHAPEL, 17 Broadway.

PERHAM'S, 65 Broadway.

IRVING HALL, Irving Place.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 512 Broadway.

HOLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, Broadway.

New York, Friday, February 26, 1864.

THE SITUATION.

A despatch from Knoxville yesterday confirms the rumors of Longstreet's retreat, which began on the 20th, from Strawberry Plains towards Bull Gap, having destroyed the bridge and all his camp equipment.

A despatch from Cairo last night reports that a courier from General Sherman had arrived at Vicksburg with the Memphis Herald containing the same fact, and it is generally believed, that intelligence from Memphis also states that much dissatisfaction existed among the rebel Mississippi troops, who were rapidly deserting, caused by speculations in cotton by the rebel G. O. Forest.

Our correspondent at Fortresses reports a most interesting story to-day of the escape of Colonel Straight and the Liberty prison some time ago, six of whom arrived at the Fortresses yesterday, making fifty-two in all, out of one hundred and nine, who have reported themselves there. The parole and sufferings through which they passed form one of those exciting episodes which war only can produce.

A scouting party from the Polk's Army went out to report on Tuesday towards Coocoma, where it was found no enemy. There is no further news from that quarter.

Our forces in North Carolina are not idle. They keep constantly in motion as small bodies, picking up guerrillas and seizing rebel stores. An expedition recently sent up Alligator river, in Tyrrel county, captured thirty guerrillas. Another expedition, up the Chowan, re-located the capture of thirty horses and mules, and fifty thousand pounds of bacon destroyed. Another raid, up the same river, so far as Huxtableville, resulted in the capture of a mule, the capture of a mule of horses and mules and some salt, and the destruction of three hundred thousand pounds of bacon.

At the arrival at San Francisco of a vessel from Shanghai with dates to the 9th of January, we learn that China papers of the 5th say nothing of the Alabama being blockaded at Amoy at any time. The only news on the subject comes in private letters dated January 9, one of which says, "The Alabama is reported to be in our vicinity." Another says that the Alabama is reported at Singapore, coaling. And still another says that American ships in the Chinese waters are looked upon with distrust, but why is not stated. The exact location of the Alabama therefore remains, like the "Flying Dutchman," a mystery.

CONGRESS.

In the Senate yesterday the vote adopted by the Conference Committee's report on the whiskey tax was reconsidered, and Messrs. Sherman, Clark and Newton were appointed as a new committee on the subject. The joint conference committee are said to be equally divided on the question of taxing spirits in hand. The bill relative to acting assistant paymasters in the navy was passed; also the bill providing that appointments of volunteer naval officers shall be confirmed by the Senate. A conference committee was ordered on the disagreeing vote on the resolution reviving the grade of lieutenant general. The Military Committee were directed to inquire into the expediency of extending the time of paying bounties to soldiers to April next. A bill abolishing the shipping bounty was referred to the Finance Committee. The bill considering the surveyor general's districts was passed. The bill making the pay of colored soldiers the same as that of white was discussed till the adjournment.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

The steamship Ellerslie, from London, on the 15th instant, reached Portland yesterday. Her news is one day later.

Earl Derby, in the House of Lords, assailed Lord Palmerston's policy with reference to the Alabama and the seizure of the Laird rams. He asserted that the rams were seized under a treaty from the American Government, and moved for the production of the papers. Earl Russell refused to produce the papers, legal inquiries being still pending. The Right honorable member of the London Press says that the Southern slaves fight freely for the rebel.

It is said that the Duke has evinced a deep interest, and conversed with other officers, for Alton, England, it is said, has proposed an armistice to the Confederates, and the cessation of hostilities, with the exception of Alton, by the Duke, preparatory to a conference, in which France, Russia and Sweden will join. It was hoped that this armistice would settle the long vexed question of the Schlieffen.

Census taken in London, on the 12th inst. at 9 1/2. American securities were steady. The Liverpool cotton market on the 15th inst. was firm, with an increased demand, closing firm. Breadstuffs were heavy and lower. Provisions unchanged and steady.

The steamship Hammonia, Captain Schreiner, from Hamburg 7th and Southampton 10th inst. arrived at this port last evening. Her advices have been anticipated.

The New York Democratic State Convention was opened at Albany yesterday morning. The committee

appointed to select delegates to the National Convention to be held at Chicago on the 4th of July next, for the nomination of candidates for President and Vice President, made a report, which was agreed to, and the Convention, through a despatch, the list of delegates is headed by the names of Governor Seymour, Dean Richmond, Isaac Baile and August Belmont.

The Supervisors' Body Committee had another heavy day yesterday in receiving the recruits and paying the bounty. The Park institution has become so noted and popular that volunteers are flocking in from the country to take advantage of the heavy bounty paid in hand, and the certainty of making it secure for their families or friends if they desire. About two hundred and fifty were paid yesterday. An attempt was made yesterday to liberally spike the guns of Chairman Hunt. Two six-pounders were planted in front of the door of the committee room, and when business opened in the morning they were discharged, thus giving notice to all that operations for the day have commenced. After loading the pieces yesterday morning they were held firm, and on withdrawing the charges they were both fired, and with some hard substance inserted down near the breech, well calculated, had an explosion taken place, to have burst them both and played havoc with the hundred or two men surrounding them, including a portion of the committee. It is difficult to believe that any one in our midst could prove himself such a miscreant as to have intended the catastrophe which accident alone prevented, but the care with which the members of the committee are surrounded in their malice in it. But Mr. Hunt still lives to pay out the greenbacks to all volunteers who call at the office.

The Brooklyn and Long Island Sanitary Fair is proving a great success. About twenty thousand people have already visited it, and the receipts from that source and the sale of goods already amount to upwards of one hundred and forty thousand dollars.

The Councils met at one o'clock yesterday. A resolution of censure was adopted authorizing the comptroller to sell by public auction all city franchises, expired leases of wharves, piers and slips, and all improved property at present yielding no revenue to the city. A resolution granting the use of their chamber for a special term of the Superior Court, before Hon. Judge McClellan, was laid on the table, a majority of the members being of opinion that the presence of the lawyers was always followed by the disappearance of their books, stationery, &c. A communication was received from the Mayor, stating a resolution authorizing the Committee on Arts and Sciences to procure suitable badges for the members of the Common Council, his Honor taking into consideration that as forty-one badges would be required, and all of gold, it would entail a large and useless expenditure of the public money. A considerable amount of routine business transacted, and the Board adjourned till Monday next, at one o'clock.

The Directors of the Institute of Howard for Orphans of Patriots held a meeting last night in the rooms of Dr. Webster, at the Free Academy, when Dr. Holton stated that \$700 were realized by the exhibition of the public schools on the 22d instant, half of which is to be devoted to the object contemplated, and the other half to be donated to Washington's Prize. The Doctor then produced the copy of an act which has passed through two readings in Congress, providing for the donation of land for agricultural colleges for the orphans throughout the several States. An application has also been made to the Legislature at Albany for \$10,000, in addition to the \$50,000 proposed to be raised, for the erection of the building in this city.

The case of Nashville vs. the Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company was resumed yesterday in the Superior Court, before Judge McClellan. The testimony was chiefly medical, and was introduced for the purpose of showing that previous to and immediately after the policy was effected in the office of the defendant the deceased exhibited symptoms of consumption, and that he had been treated by several insurance companies upon that very ground. The case will probably go to the jury to-day.

In the case of Leitch D. Cowan vs. the Ocean Bank, where the plaintiff seeks to recover \$20,000 for services rendered while a director in that institution, from 1858 to 1860, Judge McClellan granted the motion yesterday for the examination of the books of the bank, and ordered a reference to the Hon. Murray Hoffman to superintend the proceedings. The plaintiff was also allowed to amend his complaint so as to increase the claim for damages from \$20,000 to \$30,000.

In the Supreme Court yesterday, before Judge Peckham, Mary Margaret Press sued her husband, Constant Press, for a divorce, on the ground of adultery. The evidence of the defendant's intimacy with young women of doubtful character was fully established, and the jury, after due deliberation, rendered a verdict for the plaintiff.

Matthew J. Toomey, a brother of the ex-Alderman, was indicted in the sum of \$200 yesterday by a jury in the Superior Court, before Judge Howell, for assaulting a butcher named Moses Grabfelder. The plaintiff laid his damages at \$3,000, and claimed to have been badly abused.

The number of inmates in the public institutions of the city at present is 9,350. The number admitted last week was 1,921, and the number discharged, transferred or who died, 1,921.

The Manifesto of the Rebel Congress—A Dismal Story. Of all the rebel jeremiads of the war, the address of the retiring rebel Congress to the people of the so-called "Confederate States" is the most reckless, dismet and despondent.

From Farragut's operations we hear no news that is reliable. The rebel report of a fight on the 16th inst. at Grant's Pass, was doubtless false. Grant's Pass has only four feet of water, and Farragut has no vessels that can operate in it. His more probable plan of operations will be to run his iron-clads into the bay, destroy the rebel iron-clads Morgan and Gaines, attack Fort Morgan from the northward with his iron-clads, while his wooden fleet operates on the southern and western faces of the fort. He then will cover the landing of the troops and aid with his rifles their advance on the sand batteries which extend from Bull Island up to the city of Mobile.

THE WAR AMONG THE REPUBLICANS IN WASHINGTON.

The war between the radicals and the Lincolnites in Washington is assuming a lively and practical shape in the revival of the preservation of some of the personal friends of Old Abe. The Marshal of the District, once the President's law partner, has his old Congressional persecutors again upon his heels, and this time they attempt to touch his pocket by withholding therefrom certain fat office fees. This would be had enough at any time; but in the present era of monetary plethora in the federal capital, and the high prices for everything, including whiskey, it is especially hard and unfeeling. The plan of annoying the President by humiliating his friends has already been commenced by his foes and rival Presidential aspirants, and affords further evidence of the general smash up that has taken place among republican managers.

The English Government taking a different view of neutrality—Lord Derby, in the House of Lords the course of the English government in regard to the Alabama and the seizure of the Laird rams, and demanded that the papers relating to this subject be laid before the House. Earl Russell defended the line of conduct pursued by the government, and refused, pending the legal inquiries upon these matters, to furnish the documents in question. Lord Derby will find it a hard matter to make capital now out of the rebel cause. The people in England have set their minds against it, and the English government, warned by the demands of Mr. Seward for indemnity, will for the future see that the neutrality laws are respected by its subjects.

war. But the government refused these modest conditions of peace, and war being the consequence, the nonfencing and grievously injured seceding States have undertaken the task, in behalf of their institution of slavery, to fight out the struggle for freedom.

And how has this war for a Southern confederacy prospered? This rebel Congressional manifesto informs us that the prowess and achievements of the soldiers of Davis have excited the wonder and admiration of mankind; that such a people never can be subdued; that, anxious as they are for peace, they have no overtures to make, considering the temper of certain late resolutions of the federal Congress, that horrible as are the atrocities of the invading Yankees, heavy as are the trials of continued resistance, they will risk slavery and everything else to escape the bondage of subjugation. This manifesto in their behalf declares that it would be "better to be conquered by any other nation than by the United States;" "better to be a dependency of any other Power than of that." No doubt these rebel leaders would sell out their States, people, slavery and all, to England or France, on any terms, to escape the penalties of treason; but there is no help for them. France and England have other irons in the fire, and Davis and his ralling confederates are cornered.

They confess that their "situation is grave, but furnishes no just cause for despondency," when despondency marks this inflammatory appeal from beginning to end. They call for every man capable of bearing arms and for everything that an exhausted people can furnish to a half starved army. They hope that "something may turn up." They have a powerful party of sympathizers in the North, and Lincoln despotism, it is contended, cannot much longer be borne. It is threatened with a financial convulsion, and "short crops in the United States and abundant harvests in Europe will hasten what was otherwise inevitable." Such are the straws at which these drowning men are matching. From first to last their address is one long howl of impotent rage and despair. They still point the glories of a Southern confederacy in inviting colors, but much subdued, while they employ, with the desperation of a hopeless cause, every argument of fact or fancy calculated to revive the fighting spirit which is dying out of their impoverished, disheartened and diminished followers.

Such is the last card of the retiring rebel Congress. We shall not be surprised if our next intelligence of its signers shall be that they have run the blockade for Nassau, and have departed westward in the hope of joining General Price under the refuge of the French protectorate in Mexico.

The Military Operations in Alabama. Advice from Vicksburg on the 20th inst. inform us of General Sherman's advance to Selma. Selma is on the Alabama river, about three hundred miles above Mobile. It is an important point strategically in its relations to that city, and it is also a very important point to the confederacy as a naval depot. There is a naval arsenal at Selma, and several iron armored vessels have been built there. Two of these are now on duty in Mobile bay.

By his occupation of this point General Sherman gives us another important move in the game against Mobile. Selma is the southern terminus of the Alabama and Tennessee River Railroad. Seventy miles above Selma, on the Alabama river, is Montgomery, the capital of Alabama, and the first capital of the Southern confederacy. Montgomery has direct railroad communication with Atlanta and with the rebel army in Georgia under Johnston. Gen. Sherman, therefore, by the occupation of Selma, and the occupation of Montgomery that will doubtless follow, has seized the great lines of communication between Johnston and Mobile, and has effectually isolated that city. In this he has probably done the greater part of what he had to do against Mobile. Leaving the more immediate operations against the city to Farragut and Banks, he will probably keep his face turned toward Georgia and Johnston. Selma is an important stage gained in his eastward journey, and, as a base that will be available by water when Farragut and Banks have done their part against Mobile, it will be a very advantageous point for future operations on the banks of the great retreating who now commands the Southern army of the Southwest.

From Farragut's operations we hear no news that is reliable. The rebel report of a fight on the 16th inst. at Grant's Pass, was doubtless false. Grant's Pass has only four feet of water, and Farragut has no vessels that can operate in it. His more probable plan of operations will be to run his iron-clads into the bay, destroy the rebel iron-clads Morgan and Gaines, attack Fort Morgan from the northward with his iron-clads, while his wooden fleet operates on the southern and western faces of the fort. He then will cover the landing of the troops and aid with his rifles their advance on the sand batteries which extend from Bull Island up to the city of Mobile.

The War in Europe.—The Hibernian brings one day later intelligence from Europe. England has proposed an armistice between the Danes and the Germans, preliminary to a conference to be held for the purpose of definitively settling the Schleswig-Holstein question. France, Russia and Sweden side with England in this proposition. It is evident that they are anxious to suppress this conflict, which is so likely to lead to complications disastrous to the welfare and continuance of the present ruling Powers in Europe. The proposal for a conference is of course a concession to Napoleon's first idea of a general congress, and amounts to a triumph for that astute monarch. Should Germany refuse to accede to England's desire, the above named Powers will, it is more than likely, take measures to forcibly put an end to the war.

The Harmon-Broadway Railroad Bill in the Legislature. ALBANY, Feb. 25, 1864. Those who are in a position here to know what is going on in regard to the passage of the Harmon-Broadway Railroad are having a great deal of amusement over the wild speculation in Harmon stock in Wall street, and anticipate bearing witness and bitter lamentations at no distant day.

The Broadway Railroad Bill has been referred to the Railroad Committee, consisting of five Senators. Four out of the five have been in Albany during the last forty-eight hours, and made no disguise of the fact that they were opposed to the bill. They made no secret of this fact. Unless, therefore, these gentlemen are hereafter convinced that a Broadway railroad is necessary, the bill has gone as far as it will go, and those who now see enormous fortunes in Harmon stock looking up who now see weeping over delusive visions.

The Broadway Railroad may be reported by the Senate committee, but the majority of the committee are certainly against it now, and unless they change their views the bill will not see daylight again. This I know is not very consolatory to the army of speculators in Harmon stock, who are said to be merchants and outsiders, upon whom the brokers are pushing their stock at inflated prices, but it is as true as unpalatable.

The general impression among the posted, and corroborated by the assertions of members of both houses, is that railroad and other New York schemes will stand a poor chance this winter. Certainly there will be no exception.

OLYMPIC THEATRE.—A lively piece, in three acts, entitled Taking a Butter, and adapted from the French by Messrs. Daly and Wood, was played at this establishment for the first time last night. Though the piece has the smallest possible amount of story, it seems to be some the worse for that. It is particularly rich in amusing situations and smart dialogue, and had a decided success. The cast includes the whole strength of the company.

MILLO'S GARDEN.—The Duke's Motto, so successfully revived at this establishment, will be again withdrawn after Saturday. Miss Richings, so deservedly a popular favorite, will begin with English opera on Monday night.

CHAMPION PRIZE FOR THE GRANT.—A \$1,000 sword for Grant's five has just been finished by the Arms Company at Annapolis. Among the ornamental features upon the hilt is a ring of fourteen diamonds, costing \$400. On the sword is engraved a record of twenty-seven battles since the fall of the modern Empire has been engaged.—Harvard Times.

General Grant and McClellan Refusing the Presidency.

It is really a great relief to come across a couple of persons, in this grasping world, who exhibit a disposition to refuse anything. The feeling of relief is increased to a sentiment of positive pleasure when the thing refused turns out to be the Presidency. Why, such an event has been unheard of for many years past. Politicians will certainly be astounded by it. The idea of anybody refusing the Presidency, for which almost any politician would lie and steal, eat dirt and his own words, sell himself and his soul (if he had any), and even murder his dearest friend, is certainly almost incredible.

And yet, if you may believe the statement of a St. Louis paper, which has been pretty extensively copied in our exchanges, General Grant is positively ready to refuse the nomination—which would be equivalent to an election—for the next Presidency. The party hacks are filled with equal wonder and delight at this sublime spectacle. They wonder, because they are conscious that no rack or other torture could extract such a refusal from them. They are delighted, because they hope that the track is now clear for their cut and dried conventions. To add to their wonder and double their delight, let us inform them that General McClellan has refused the Presidency also. In a conversation with us some time ago, the General stated his views very emphatically. Said he, "I do not want to be President. I do not desire to be President. I have no ambition to be President. I am too young to be President. If I were elected President my term of office would soon be over, and then I should be an ex-President while still a young man. And what an ex-President is, and how he is regarded from doing anything effectively, you know as well as I do. No. My desire, my ambition, is to be restored to my former position in the army, so that I may help to save my country, and, if necessary, that I may die for her." Those were noble words, uttered from a pure and patriotic heart. Let politicians ponder them, and blush at their own abasement.

We know that General Grant agrees with General McClellan in this matter, as in almost everything else. If he were called upon to speak he would express himself in almost similar words. He does not desire the Presidency. He does not want the Presidency. His ambition is to serve his country in the field, and, if need be, to die for her. If such sentiments are tantamount to a refusal of the Presidency, then General Grant refuses it. We did not require a St. Louis paper to tell us that. But, on the other hand, the more such men refuse the Presidency the more eagerly the people will press it upon them. They do not want the Presidency; but the Presidency wants them. If they are great enough to decline it they are just the persons who ought to have it. They do not seek the office; but the office seeks for them. The nation is tired and sick of mere office beggars. We have had quite enough of such men as poor Pierce and blundering Buchanan and funny Old Abe. The republic is being reconstructed, and we need Presidents of the old, noble stamp—men who take office to serve their country, and not to serve themselves and their party. The course of Grant and of McClellan proves them to be men of the true metal. Their conduct brings back to us the lost and almost forgotten virtue of the early days of the Union. It will move the people more heartily than all the buncombe of political office hunters. They know that General Grant is willing to accept any position—high or low—in which he can do the most good for his country, and if they choose to call him to the highest position he will yield his own wishes to their decision, and accept the responsibilities with which they entrust him. But we hail it as an omen of brighter and happier days that two of the greatest soldiers and most available Presidential candidates have the magnanimity to decline what everybody else is anxiously seeking. Compared with this lofty patriotism, how contemptible do the petty intrigues of Chase and Seward and Old Abe appear in the eyes of all sensible, thoughtful men.

The Pennsylvania Legislature. THE MILITARY AND NAVAL DEPARTMENT.—THE DEAD LOCK IN THE SENATE BROKEN.—PROCLAMATION AGAINST ENLIGHTENED IN PENNSYLVANIA FOR OTHER STATES, ETC.

The Committee on Federal Relations to-day agreed, by a vote of four to one, to report a resolution instructing our Senators and Representatives to abstain from voting for the bill for the amendment of the National Railroad and postal and military route.

Resolutions were offered that for postal and military purposes no State should be admitted into the Union until the United States pay the nation.

The resolutions were introduced by Mr. Smith of Philadelphia, were read by the substitute of Mr. Smith of Chester. The latter was more explicit, decided and forcible. He said that the States which were admitted into the Union should be required to pay the nation.

Our Senate will organize next Monday, Mr. Blair, successor to Major White, will arrive this day and be sworn in. The Senate will then proceed to the consideration of a bill to amend the laws relating to the military and naval forces of the United States.

The Opera. There was played on Wednesday night, as usual, to a crowded house. Marzelen's performance on this occasion was a masterpiece of finished acting; he seemed to surpass himself. His acting puts us more in mind of the great tragedian Salvini. He was the great actor of the day, and his performance was a masterpiece. His expression, his graceful movements, his elegant posture, in fact, his whole manner, was all that could be desired. He was well paid for his services, and his performance was a masterpiece.

Medori also sang charmingly, as usual. Her "Amor mio" was given with deep feeling and expression. Bellini was in excellent voice. We are glad to find that Miss Selzer has taken our hint, and does not use the French as much as she formerly did. She is an excellent artist.

Pellini's charming and most popular opera, La Sonnambula, was given last evening at the Metropolitan. A most fashionable and appreciative audience filled the hall. The performance was a masterpiece. The singing was excellent, and the acting was a masterpiece.

To-night Miss Harris makes her debut in Lucia, with Marzelen as Edgardo. We regret to announce that after the expiration of the season of sixteen nights, Mr. Marzelen will give but a short additional course of seven nights, after which the troupe will go to Boston, and will not return to New York. It is probable that they will not return to New York.

ARTIST'S RECEPTION AT DOWNING'S STUDIO BUILDING.—There was a large and brilliant attendance at the Artists' reception, at Downing's Studio Building, No. 201 Fifth Avenue, last evening. The exhibition of paintings was numerous and of a character which must reflect great credit on the artists. Among those at the reception were Messrs. C. W. Branch, J. G. Brown, H. J. Gray, J. O. R. Inman, A. W. C. and others. A fine orchestra contributed excellent music to the other entertainments of the evening.

Fairs in Aid of the Sanitary Commission. THE NEW YORK SANITARY FAIR. Contributions both of money and goods continue to be received by the managers of the fair, which is to be held at the Academy of Music, in aid of the Sanitary Commission. Everything indicates that it will be a great success. In a preliminary and every other respect. The school boys are already in the habit of contributing to the fair. The boys of the ward school No. 10 have realized the sum of eight hundred dollars, being the proceeds of an exhibition given by them in aid of the fair.

THE BROOKLYN SANITARY FAIR. The fair is now in progress at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, and promises to be a success. The committee of arrangements were at first not quite up to their business, and as a consequence thereof matters got somewhat mixed up on Tuesday evening, the 22d inst. The fair is now in progress, and promises to be a success.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES. HARRISON—Steamship Harmonia—Capt. Schreiner, from Hamburg 7th and Southampton 10th inst. arrived at this port last evening. Her advices have been anticipated.

GENERAL BUTLER'S DEPARTURE.

Movements of the Army in North Carolina.—Capture of Thirty Guerrillas.—Execution of Fifty Negro Hangers.—Successful Raid on Rebel Stores.—The Rebel Captain Brockbridge About to be Exchanged, &c.

By news just received from Plymouth, N. C., it is evident that our forces in that quarter are not inactive. A detachment sent up the Alligator river into Tyrrel county, on board the gunboat Fort, returned on the 20th instant. In the expedition over thirty guerrillas were captured. The capture was made at Fairfield. The guerrillas did not fire a shot, and the camp, where the rebel rangers were snugly stowed away in a sleep, was taken wholly by surprise. A heavy snow storm, which was prevailing at the time, facilitated our men in their attack and surprise. The prisoners are the worst kind of guerrillas, and their capture will be attended with most beneficial results, and it is hoped up an end to this mode of warfare in that region.

On the 18th inst. the little gunboat Bombshell took a trip up the river and brought in nearly fifty contrabands and as many refugees, all of whom enlisted in the Northern army. The capture of these rebels was an opportunity to get within our lines, and once under the protection of the Stars and Stripes are strongly anxious to fight under its flag.

No less since a raid was made from Plymouth by the Chowan river to Coleraine, where thirty horses and mules were taken and fifty thousand pounds of bacon destroyed. Closely following on the heels of this raid was another of the same river as far as Huxtableville. Here a smart fight was fought, and the rebels, who were being routed, captured a number of horses and mules and some salt and destruction of three hundred thousand pounds of bacon.

At Plymouth Captain H. P. Hodges, Assistant Quartermaster, has established and is successfully running several small stores, the number of which is much needed and appreciated by our government.

There is a continued list in the news of this place and the North. The only news here is the anticipated departure to-morrow of the Reg. of Trade and Commerce, Captain Brockbridge, son of the rebel general. It is understood will be sent up on this boat for exchange. It will be remembered that he was captured at Chickamauga, at the same time as (his name near falling prisoner into our hands.

The Ohio River Improvement Convention. COLUMBIA, Feb. 25, 1864. The Convention for the improvement of the Ohio River passed a series of resolutions, terminating with a requirement that an appropriation of ten millions be asked of the federal government for the improvement of the Ohio, and that the resolutions and memorials adopted by the Convention be forwarded to the Senate of Trade, Commerce and Consular Affairs, and to the various cities and towns on the banks of the Ohio river for their action and approval.

The resolution adopted, which was offered as a substitute for one which required plans, &c., to be sent to Boards of Trade and Chambers of Commerce, provides that a committee be selected from the members of the Ohio, to be constituted an executive committee, to take charge of the subject matter of the convention, with power to convene its members at any future day, and that said executive committee be expected to urge upon the national authorities such plans as merit general concurrence and oppose all inadequate plans.

The Convention adjourned this afternoon sine die. The Committee on Federal Relations to-day agreed, by a vote of four to one, to report a resolution instructing our Senators and Representatives to abstain from voting for the bill for the amendment of the National Railroad and postal and military route.

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To-night Miss Harris makes her debut in Lucia, with Marzelen as Edgardo. We regret to announce that after the expiration of the season of sixteen nights, Mr. Marzelen will give but a short additional course of seven nights, after which the troupe will go to Boston, and will not return to New York. It is probable that they will not return to New York.

ARTIST'S RECEPTION AT DOWNING'S STUDIO BUILDING.—There was a large and brilliant attendance at the Artists' reception, at Downing's Studio Building, No. 201 Fifth Avenue, last evening. The exhibition of paintings was numerous and of a character which must reflect great credit on the artists. Among those at the reception were Messrs. C. W. Branch, J. G. Brown, H. J. Gray, J. O. R. Inman, A. W. C. and others. A fine orchestra contributed excellent music to the other entertainments of the evening.

Fairs in Aid of the Sanitary Commission. THE NEW YORK SANITARY FAIR. Contributions both of money and goods continue to be received by the managers of the fair, which is to be held at the Academy of Music, in aid of the Sanitary Commission. Everything indicates that it will be a great success. In a preliminary and every other respect. The school boys are already in the habit of contributing to the fair. The boys of the ward school No. 10 have realized the sum of eight hundred dollars, being the proceeds of an exhibition given by them in aid of the fair.

THE BROOKLYN SANITARY FAIR. The fair is now in progress at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, and promises to be a success. The committee of arrangements were at first not quite up to their business, and as a consequence thereof matters got somewhat mixed up on Tuesday evening, the 22d inst. The fair is now in progress, and promises to be a success.

THE DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION.

The Wrangling of Factions and Departure of the Tammany Delegation.—List of Delegates to the National Convention at Chicago.—The Committee Refuse to Report Fernando and Benjamin Wood's Names in the List of Delegates, &c., &c.

The McKoon party and a portion of the Moore delegation are exceedingly jubilant this morning over the result of the Convention yesterday. McKoon holds that the issue between his delegation and Tammany is that of barring office and jobs—Tammany and his party for the one, and his delegation for the other. He asserts that there are men in the delegation, and that as an organization they have never raised that question or taken any action. It may do very well for them to remain silent as long as they can, but they cannot do so. They cannot do so. They cannot do so.

The Convention will be called upon to consider. The position of the delegates from this State, of the Convention which was held, is all important upon that point. The Convention will be called upon to consider. The position of the delegates from this State, of the Convention which was held, is all important upon that point.

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