INTERESTING FROM THE WEST COAST.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMSHIP ARIEL.

News from Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia and the Central American Republics.

Proposed Congress of the South American Republics.

EARTHQUAKE AT PANAMA,

&c., &c., &c.

By the arrival of the steamship Ariel, Captain Wilson, at this port yesterday, from Aspinwall on the 7th inst., we have late and interesting intelligence from the republics of Central and South America, which will be found detailed in the letter of our Panama correspondent.

The following is the specie list of the Ariel:—

FROM ASPINWALL.		A.S.Rosenbaum&Co.	$28,500
Ribon & Munoz	$300	C. Holloway	9,877
Herques & Co.	100	De Witt, Little & Co	7,500
		J. Strauss, Bro. & Co	30,664
Total	$400	Baker & Morrell	6,399
FROM SAN FRANCISCO.		Duncan,Sherman&Co	38,128
Order	$29,483	A. Rich & Bro.	8,800
Schotte Bro.	30,500	H. Cohn & Co.	49,000
Jennings & Brewster	6,200	Wells, Fargo &Co.	52,500
J. B. Newton & Co.	24,094		
C. H Grant & Co.	4,500	Total	$335,150
From Aspinwall			400
Total			$335,550

Our Panama Correspondence.

PANAMA, March 7, 1864.

SOUTH AMERICA.

The Pacific Steam Navigation Company's steamship Chile, Captain Sovell, from Valparaiso and intermediate ports, arrived in this harbor at an early hour yesterday morning. Her dates are:—Valparaiso, February 17, Coquimbo 18th, Caldera 19th, Cobija 21st, Iquique 22d, Arica 22d, Islay 23d, Pisco 25th, Chinchas 25th, Callao 28th and Payta March 2d. She has seventy-nine packages of cargo for New York.

The news by the Chile from the South American republics is extremely meagre. The proposed Congress of representatives from all the republics appears to be exciting much attention, and will probably take place; but what will it avail, even should it agree upon a treaty of alliance, offensive and defensive, if any of the greater Powers of the world see fit to take possession? If it can agree upon keeping peace among themselves it will be a great point gained, provided the arrangement can be made satisfactorily secure and not liable to be broken by any one of the governments that may in future feel disposed to make a row about nothing, or, in other words, to give some one or another of their rulers the opportunity of establishing for himself some little military reputation. A very little time will determine what the Congress will accomplish, and its proceedings will be watched with much interest by those connected in business or otherwise with these countries.

CHILE.

Matters appear to be exceedingly dull in this model republic. The elections are the absorbing topic, all else appearing for the time to have been laid aside. I quote the remarks of the *Mercurio del Vapor* in regard to the proposed Congress:—"We must except only the great and universal enthusiasm with which the invitation of the government of Peru to an American Congress has been welcomed by the whole nation, and particularly by the press of all political shades, which on this topic has shown a commendable unanimity. We opine that the government is actually occupied in the execution of the part that belongs to it in the realization of this sublime thought, which we hope shortly to see a reality more sublime."

In regard to internal affairs I quote the following:—"Of the internal events of another kind there is only to be recorded a criminal attempt among the military garrison of Copiapo, whose chief, a Captain Gonzales, attempted in a moment of madness or imbecility to perpetrate an act of violence whose object was supposed to be plunder, but was prevented by the courage of the second in command, Lieutenant Zarato. The people of Copiapo, always generous as opulent, have presented the latter with a house and sword of honor, for which a large sum has been collected by public subscription. This event has directed the attention of government to the danger of garrisoning cities so rich as Copiapo with troops of the line alone, exposed to a military insurrection in the midst of an unarmed population."

The *Mercurio* thus closes its review of the fortnight:—"Our foreign friends will see that nothing extraordinary has occurred in peaceable Chile, now quite absorbed in her harvest, her holidays, her country fetes, in her Lent fasts, and above all the tremendous heat of the dog days."

The following is a review of the Valparaiso markets:—

Copper—In addition to the sales noticed in our last some important transactions were effected on the eve of the departure of the last mail, and too late to report, as not untrequently happens. After these the market was very quiet until a few days before the arrival of the present mail, when sales were effected of 20,000 quintals of bars, deliverable in Guayacan, at the previous price of $19 on board. Since the arrival of the last mail prices have advanced, sales being effected of 500 quintals at $20 50, and 6,000 to 7,000 quintals, in various lots, at $21 on shore, equal to $21 75 on board, being a rise of $2 75 on the price paid before the steamer's arrival.

Nitrate—Owing to the large quantity shipped last month, and shipping in the present, there is a temporary scarcity, and transactions have consequently been limited, the sales during the fortnight being only 25,000 to 28,000 quintals, at 15½rs. a 16½rs., with the usual conditions.

Shipping—There have been no charters of vessels for ports in the United States since the sailing of the last steamer. The British bark Webfoot has arrived from Boston, and the Danish bark Parthian, from New York, both to Alsop & Co.

PERU.

There is but little or anything more of interest from Peru than Chile. They appear Congress-mad also, and we have the note that has passed from the government of Peru to those of Chile and Bolivia, which I give. It is as follows:—

LIMA, Feb. 4, 1864.

One of the most urgent wants of all the South American republics is stability of peace, without which the consolidation of democratic institutions, the development of general wealth, the propagation of civilization and the restoration of right to firm and immovable conditions, are objects impossible to be attained. The labors of all the governments of this continent ought to have been directed long since to the attainment of these benefits as the only sources of happiness, and as the principles best calculated for realizing that union so earnestly desired by all the nations of common origin.

Different questions of more or less gravity may arise between the American republics, as the convictions and sentiments do not always agree about local interests and views of peculiar aggrandizement. However, the solution of all those questions ought not to be sought for in the use of material force, but the tranquil discussion of facts and in the faithful application of justice. War, the last resource of nations and the most awful and destructive of all means to obtain right, must not be adopted by the States of America, founded upon principles of a conciliatory and humane policy. War would not produce any other results but kindle mutual and eternal hatred amongst brethren who ought to live as intimate friends; diminish our scant populations, which have suffered so long all the vicissitudes of endless revolutions and the faults of the colonial system; encourage pretensions of foreigners who would avail themselves of our quarrels in order to subjugate us, and destroy all sources of prosperity which would make of this hemisphere the seat of true liberty. For these very reasons, which cannot fail to be appreciated by so enlightened a Cabinet as that of ——, it is necessary to proclaim loudly the dogma of peace as being indispensable for securing our destinies for ever.

The government of Peru has adopted it with a sacred and most ardent enthusiasm, and should wish to see it accepted in all other Hispano-American countries. It has already presented to the nearest cabinets the idea of a Congress, settling firmly the future of so many States, exposed to become weaker, and to perish if they do not unite themselves by indissoluble and holy ties. Until that day of great hopes and important results all differences dividing temporarily the American nations must be postponed, and their final decision must be left to the counsels of reason and to the impartial administration of justice.

Bolivia and Chile, two nations with whom we are united by so many common ties, to whom we profess our sincerest and most cordial sympathies, and for whom we should willingly make any sacrifice, keep up a controversy which in course of time may take alarming proportions. Before appealing for the defence of their respective questions to coercive and warlike means a peaceable settlement ought to be mediated. Such is the desire of the Peruvian government, and as a partisan of peace, as well as a zealous sustainer of the dignity of the continent, and a loyal and fervent friend of the two republics, it offers its good offices, its spontaneous mediation, thus fulfilling a duty as the representative of an American people, and ceding to the impulse of the purest patriotism. It knows well and appreciates the benevolent sentiments of Bolivia and Chile, it respects the grounds on which their respective rights are based, as in duty bound, and observes an impartial and even scrupulous conduct; but it understands that nothing impedes it to take the important part it has assumed, counting upon the toleration and good sense of both governments. If this insinuation should be accepted, as it is to be believed—an insinuation which public law permits, and which the interests of America advise—great evils would be avoided, and the basis of much vaster plans would at once be established, plans more useful and more honorable for the whole continent.

With sentiments of the sincerest consideration, the undersigned has the honor, &c.

JUAN ANTONIO RIBEYRO.

The letter is an excellent one, and if what it advocates is carried out in the spirit in which the document appears to have been written it will be of inestimable benefit to all the republics of South America. The *Comercio* of Lima thus speaks of the propositions:—

The conditions of Peru with respect to Bolivia and Chile and the necessity of consolidating the ties of union between all the South American countries—a necessity which has become the general aspiration of all the nations of this continent—are considerations which give a well founded hope that the mediation offered spontaneously by the government of Peru to those of Bolivia and Chile in order to terminate in a peaceable way the differences caused by the Mejillones question will be accepted by both governments; and it is not hazardous to assert that the result which the Peruvian government endeavors to obtain will be effected, much more so as the question in dispute has lost the acrimonious character it showed at the beginning.

General Vivanco went to Chile by the steamer of the 20th inst., in order to take charge of the Peruvian legation in Santiago, and we may naturally presume that among his instructions there are some relative to the proposed mediation.

The project of assembling an American Congress, initiated by the government of Peru, has been received with great enthusiasm by the press of Chile, which demands that not only the neighboring republics be invited, but also those of Central America, and even Mexico and St. Domingo.

The contractors for converting the base coin of Peru into a proper circulating medium are proceeding with the work and collecting the necessary bullion for a commencement.

The cultivation of cotton in Peru is on the increase, and planters are preparing large tracts of land for the purpose of enlarging their crops to the greatest possible extent.

ECUADOR.

There is nothing of the least possible interest from this republic. Everything is quiet since the declaration of peace; but business improves very slowly.

CENTRAL AMERICA.

The Panama Railroad Company's steamship Salvador, Captain Rathbun, from Central American ports, arrived in this harbor at an early hour yesterday morning. Her dates are, San Jose, February 25; Acajutla, 26th; Libertad, 27th; La Union, 30th; Realejo, March 1, and Punta Arenas, 3d. She brings the following cargo for New York:—1,977 hides, 221 bags of coffee, 64 bales of cotton, 34 bales of deer skins, 4 cerocons of indigo, 3 cases merchandise and 1 barrel of rum. She has also 1,904 bags of coffee for San Francisco.

The news by the Salvador is of no importance whatever. General Carrera, the President of Guatemala, had not yet arrived at the capital from his visit to Sonsonanto.

The Constitutional Assembly in Salvador were still in session, but no business of any importance had been transacted.

President Martinez, of Nicaragua, had again tendered his resignation. The Transit Company had succeeded in arranging their business with the government, and according to their representations everything was going on swimmingly. We have no positive information, however, by this arrival, whether the bar at the harbor of Greytown has been removed or not. We think not, however, and until it is the transit route may be considered of no value for either freight or passengers.

COLOMBIA.

By the arrival of the steamer Tyne at Aspinwall on the 4th instant, from Carthagena, we have advices from Bogota to the 15th ult. Congress has declared that Murillo is the legally elected President of the United States of Colombia. This, of course, destroys Mosquera's hopes unless he chooses to adopt stronger means than votes to maintain his present position; but this is hardly possible. The President elect, Senor Murillo, is now daily expected in the country from the United States, and rumor states that he is coming in a United States steamer-of-war. This would be a fortunate circumstance, for it will have the tendency to create a good feeling between the people of the two countries, which should exist now that we of the Northern States appear determined to resemble the people of Colombia in complexion and character. I have no doubt that when Senor Murillo is once in power it will have a most beneficial effect upon this country. The internal strife will cease, foreign wars be avoided, and more attention given to developing the resources of the country and bettering the condition of the people at large. Colombia possesses excellent laws, but there has been a most lamentable failure in carrying them out; for instance, a law compels every parent to send his or her children to school, and provides that every district shall have its public schoolhouse; but where will it be found in this vicinity that the law is carried out? Had there been any energy in these people, or a disposition on the part of the government to increase the prosperity of the country, the line of the railroad would have been a garden rather than what it is—an impenetrable wilderness.

Of the revolution in Antioquia nothing further has been received. The insurgents hold possession of the State, and are willing to return to their allegiance provided the decrees of Mosquera respecting the church are revoked.

Mosquera was not in Bogota at the time of the decision of Congress respecting Murillo's election, but was expected in a few days. His arrival may, if he is disposed to maintain the office of President, put an entirely different aspect upon the whole affair as it now stands. If we can believe his protestations we need fear no difficulty; but a great many persons among those who are familiar with Mosquera have no hesitation in saying that his assertions will amount to nothing; that when he finds Murillo has been declared President he will, on the probable plea of its being "for the good of the country," endeavor, by force if necessary, to continue himself in office.

If peace could be looked forward to in this country for a length of time much could be done for its benefit; but, with revolutions and foreign wars constantly before us, what chance is there to bring the people to consider alone the pursuits of peace? "God helps those who help themselves;" and, as the population of Colombia appear unwilling or too lazy to do anything for their own welfare, what right have they to expect that the Almighty will do anything for them? If there is any place in the country where improvement would take place it is in Panama; but it remains, as it has been for many years, in a state of backwardness and rapid decay.

PANAMA.

About half-past four A. M. on the 4th instant I was awakened out of a sound sleep by a severe shock, accompanied by a loud rumbling sound that at first made me suppose there had been an explosion of a large quantity of gunpowder in the immediate vicinity of the city. The lamp by my bed side was in lively motion; all the various articles on the dressing bureau were having a noisy cotillion to themselves, and the house was not behind the rest in the way of a "shake up." I at once arose—yes, in double quick time; but by the time I had succeeded in assuming an upright position on the floor everything was quiet once more, the furniture and house ceasing their movements, as if ashamed of being caught in the act of having a good time during the master's "snooze." First lighting my lamp, I discovered that no damage had occurred; then, going to the window and looking out, I could see nothing but a most lovely scene; the waters of the bay were as placid as they could be; the night was clear, with a bright moon shining, and all Panama appeared to be asleep, for not even the bark of a dog or the crowing of a cock could be heard—sounds that are common here at all hours. Suddenly the thought struck me that there had been an earthquake, and the more I considered the matter the more I became convinced. Finally, when calling to mind how they used to feel when in Chile, I determined that such was the case, and returned to bed congratulating myself that it had been no stronger. When morning came I took my usual walk "up town," and of course the conversation on all sides was in regard to the earthquake. It was considered to be a "right smart" shock; the motion was well marked, being in a northeast and southwest direction, and the noise accompanying it resembled a heavy and continuous roll of thunder. An old inhabitant (not the oldest) told me that it was the fifth shock he had experienced in eleven years. Generally there are two following in quick succession; but in this there was but one. The heaviest of it may have been here, but it may have been the tail end of a much nearer one, and very destructive, either to the northward or southward of us. This we shall not know, however, for some days. It is singular that earthquakes are not or more frequent occurrence in Panama. To the northward and southward of us, within a few hundred miles, there are volcanoes in active operation. All around us the land is of volcanic formation, showing that in former years the convulsions of nature in this locality were of the most extensive character. It is unpleasant to live in expectation of these unwelcome visitors. One does not know when a roof or wall may be tumbling either on or about him. Really it is a delightful country to reside in; for between heat, rain, reptiles, earthquakes, wars, revolutions, Greeleyites and *san cochi*, one does not know what fate may befal him. I trust, for the sake of my nerves, that have not yet become accustomed to any such carryings on, there may not be another shock of a like character for some time to come.

THE LATEST.

The Pacific Mail Steamship Company's steamer Golden Age, Capt. Lapidge, has arrived, from San Francisco on the 23d ult. She brings the following specie:—

For England	$593,280 38
For New York	335,152 79
Total	$928,433 17

—and only forty-one passengers, who will, with the treasure, cross the Isthmus this morning, and leave Aspinwall about noon.

Personal Intelligence.

Major General Gordon Granger, commander of the Fourth army corps, arrived at the Astor House yesterday. He is suffering from severe indisposition brought on by his arduous labors with the Army of the Cumberland. General Granger played an important part during the battle of Chattanooga, by advancing with the reserve corps to the support of Major General Thomas' troops when they were assailed by the whole of the rebel army, and afterwards advanced to the relief of General Burnside at Knoxville.

Baron Stoeckl, the Russian Minister to the United States; Lieutenant Colonel Galloway and Captain Aldeson, of England; Captain Goodenough, of the Royal Navy; G. H. Blake, of Boston, and W. A. Nell, of Ohio, are stopping at the Clarendon Hotel.

Adjutant General Sprague, A. A. Sumner and G. E. Gray, of Albany; Judge N. K. Hall, of Buffalo; General Anson Stager, of Ohio; Lieutenant Pollansky, of St. Petersburg, and C. C. Alger, of Hudson, are stopping at the St. Nicholas Hotel.

Hon. Owen Lovejoy and wife, of Illinois; James Roy, of Waterviet; J. C. Palmer, of Hartford; G. Mallory and Hon. B. F. Rexford, of Connecticut; H. D. Mears, of Washington; Thomas Coman, of Pittsfield, Mass., and Hon. G. H. Upton, of Boston, are stopping at the Astor House.

Wm. Henaye and Mr. Seymour, of the British Legation; Captain Ford, of the Scots Fusilier Guard; A. and J. Heard, Mr. Everett and G. R. Minot, of Boston; J. and W. Potter and Dr. Seitzinger, of Philadelphia, and E. H. King, of Montreal, are stopping at the Brevoort House.

J. C. Spencer, of Utica; H. L. Foster, of Philadelphia; S. B. Wyman and Captain John Moss, of California; C. T. Bissell, of Detroit; W. E. Warren, of New Jersey; L. H. De Alva, of Havana; P. B. Manchester, of Chicago, and E. A. Hopkins, of Buenos Ayres, are stopping at the Metropolitan Hotel.

Major General Philip Sheridan, of the Army of the Cumberland, is at the Sherman House, Chicago.

Brigadier General W. S. Smith, of the cavalry; Brigadier General Granger, commander of the post at Nashville, and Brigadier General Gillem, Adjutant General of the State of Tennessee, were in Chattanooga on March 9.

Rhode Island Union Convention.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., March 15, 1864.

The Union National State Convention met to-day and nominated James Y. Smith for Governor, Seth Padelford for Lieutenant Governor, John R. Bartlett for Secretary of State, Horatio Rogers, Jr., for Attorney General, and Samuel A. Parker for General Treasurer—all the present incumbents except the nominee for Attorney General.

Delegates were elected to the Baltimore Convention, and a resolution was passed recommending them to vote for the renomination of President Lincoln. The State election occurs on the 6th of April.

The Chesapeake to be Brought to Portland.

PORTLAND, March 15, 1864.

The steam cutter Miami has received orders to proceed to Halifax to convoy the Chesapeake hither.

GENERAL BUTLER'S DEPARTMENT.

Rebel Accounts of Affairs at Charleston—Continuation of the Fire on the City and Sumter—General Neal Dow and Captains Sawyer and Flynn Arrived from Richmond, &c., &c.

FORTRESS MONROE, March 15, 1864.

The Richmond *Examiner* of March 14 contains the following:—

CHARLESTON, March 13, 1864.

Eight shells have been fired at the city since the last report. Nothing new.

CHARLESTON, March 7, 1864.

The enemy have kept up a slow fire on the city. The position of the fleet is unchanged.

CHARLESTON, March 8, 1864.

Thirty-one shells were fired at the city to day.

CHARLESTON, March 9, 1864.

Five Monitors are outside the bar this morning. Ten shells were fired at Sumter. An artillery duel has been kept up for several hours between Battery Gregg and the batteries on Sullivan's Island.

There was unusual activity among the enemy's fleet in Folly Inlet on Monday night.

The prisoners captured at Cherrystone arrived at Libby Prison on the 9th.

The flag of truce steamer New York arrived here this morning.

Captains Flynn and Sawyer and General Neal Dow have arrived here.

Twenty-three rebel prisoners, captured in the recent raid on the peninsula, arrived here to-day, and fourteen arrived yesterday.

The "Gatling gun" was tested to-day by the officers of the Third Pennsylvania artillery, at this place, and is pronounced a most effective weapon, throwing two hundred shots per minute. The Prussian officers witnessed the experiment, and were highly gratified at its success.

The Metropolitan Sanitary Fair.

THE BRANCH ESTABLISHMENT ON UNION SQUARE—THE KNICKERBOCKER KITCHEN, ETC.

The Executive Committee of the Metropolitan Sanitary Fair have already received more contributions than can be exhibited to advantage in their buildings on Fourteenth street. Every post brings them notices of more to follow, and the question of where to put them? has been decided by private enterprise. A number of ladies and gentlemen have generously offered to defray the expense of erecting a branch establishment on the north side of Union Square. The building will be four hundred feet long. The wings at each end will be ninety feet deep and the center of the building sixty feet deep. Ample space will be left in front of the Loyal League Club and Everett House for the passage of carriages and foot passengers. The wing on the west end will be the "International Department." The name clearly expresses the use to which it will be put. The wing on the opposite end of the building will be the "Children's Department." During the day entertainments will be given for the amusement of the juveniles, and in the evening promenade concerts will be given for the entertainment of children of larger growth. In the centre of the building will be a room fifty-four by fifty-six feet, for the exhibition and sale of musical instruments. Between the Music Room and the Children's Department will be the

KNICKERBOCKER KITCHEN.

This will be one of the most unique features of the Fair. Closets and garrets are being ransacked for articles of furniture which were first used about two hundred years ago. Ulster county, the Dutchiest of all Dutch counties, will contribute largely to the kitchen. Among other things expected from that place are a number of Knickerbocker colored people. They were born in the service of Knickerbocker families, and are to officiate as waiters. They will hand round the doughnuts and coffee in true Knickerbocker fashion. The sweetening custom described by Diedrich Knickerbocker will probably be revived. A large lump of sugar will be suspended by a string from the roof, and as each guest receives a cup of tea or coffee the sugar will be swung towards them, and they must catch it with their teeth and then bite off sufficient to make the beverage palatable. Anybody failing to catch it after three trials will be helped by a colored waiter and charged extra. The edibles will consist of waffles, doughnuts, head cheese, rollches, pickles and other Knickerbocker delicacies. To ensure a full supply of everything the committee solicit contributions in articles of Dutch furniture and things edible or otherwise for the kitchen.

THE CHARTER OAK.

There is on exhibition at the store of Messrs. Ball, Black & Co. a work of art deserving the attention of those who collect relics associated with the history of this country. It is a landscape, with all its accessories, representing the fate of the Charter Oak on the morning of August 21, 1856, entirely carved in relief from pieces of the venerable tree itself. The scene was sketched on the spot, and this miniature carving is a faithful representation of the event. Another circumstance making it still more interesting is, that the sketch was taken by a loyal lady from South Carolina, who offers this work to the Metropolitan Fair as a token of her patriotic and charitable feelings. We hope that this invaluable gift will find a fitting place in the halls of some of our literary or historical societies, where it would be best appreciated and duly preserved to the nation.

Coroners' Inquests.

THE BROADWAY CONCERT SALOON STABBING AFFRAY—FATAL RESULT—INQUEST BY CORONER WILDEY.—Patrick Kinsley, the young man who was stabbed in Madam Bell's concert saloon, 564 Broadway, by Robert J. Gilbert, during a general fight there early on Monday morning, died in the New York Hospital about three o'clock yesterday morning. Coroner Wildey held an inquest over the remains yesterday afternoon, when several witnesses who were in the saloon at the time of the stabbing, appeared and gave their testimony. John Ward, a soldier, who came on from Baltimore with the deceased some weeks ago, deposed to being with Kinsley on Sunday evening in Madam Bell's place. He saw the prisoner, Gilbert, have a bowie knife in his hand, and saw him strike Kinsley twice. Other witnesses present at the fatal affray gave their evidence, but, if they are to be believed, none of them saw the knife used by the prisoner. Dr. Woodward, house surgeon of the hospital, made a post mortem examination of the body of deceased, and found that he had been stabbed in four different places; but the fatal wound was the one in the right side. The bowie knife used pierced the kidneys and almost severed them. The other wounds were of a less dangerous character. The jury rendered a verdict "that Patrick Kinsley came to his death by stab wounds, of Robert J. Gilbert, March 14, 1864." Coroner Wildey then committed Gilbert to the Tombs for trial.

ALLEGED HOMICIDE—A WOMAN THE VICTIM.—Coroner Ranney yesterday held an inquest at Bellevue Hospital on the body of Lizzie Moore, an Irish woman 33 years of age, who died from the effects of violence alleged to have been inflicted by Dennis Riley, a man 48 years of age, living at No. 62 Cherry street. The testimony went to show that on the 8th instant the deceased entered the grocery of a Mr. Andrews, corner of Cherry and Oliver streets, and there met Riley. The latter charged her with a serious offence, which she pronounced false. Riley then struck Lizzie with his fist and knocked her down. As she arose he knocked her down a second time, kicking and beating her in a terrible manner. She was conveyed to her residence, No. 6 Catharine slip, and from thence to Bellevue Hospital, where death subsequently ensued. The jury found "that the deceased came to her death by compression of the brain, the result of violence inflicted at the hands of Dennis Riley, on the 8th day of March, 1864." Riley, on the above verdict, was committed to the Tombs for trial. He is a laborer, and was born in Ireland. The prisoner confessed to striking the deceased, but disclaims any intent to kill her.

THE SHOOTING BY A SOLDIER.—Coroner Ranney yesterday held an inquest on the body of Michael Gilfeather, the lad, seventeen years of age, who died from the effects of a gunshot wound at the hands of a soldier named Meehan, in Jersey City, on the 9th inst. Deceased, as previously reported, was furnishing some liquor to soldiers in a car, in violation of orders, when the guard shot him in the breast, and from the wound death ensued. Meehan left immediately afterwards with his regiment for Washington, and has not yet been brought back. The jury found a verdict against Meehan.

FATAL RAILROAD ACCIDENTS.—James O'Shaughnessy, a little boy three years of age, whose parents live at 43 Olives street, died in the New York Hospital from the effects of injuries received by being run over in Oliver street, near Madison, by car No. 41 of the Second avenue line. One of his legs was terribly crushed at the knee. Coroner Ranney held an inquest on the body, and the jury rendered a verdict of accidental death. An inquest was held by Coroner Ranney on the body of Joseph Burke, a little boy five and a half years of age, who died from injuries received a week since in Varick street, near Broome, by being run over by one of the Sixth avenue rail cars. The evidence showed that the occurrence was accidental, and a verdict to that effect was rendered. The parents of deceased live at No. 57 Grand street.

Obituary.

Captain JAMES B. HALSTEAD, of the One Hundred and Second regiment, New York Volunteers, died in this city on the night of the 12th inst., aged thirty years, of hemorrhage of the lungs. Captain Halstead had served over two years in the Army of the Potomac, under Generals Banks, Hooker and Burnside. He had just received his promotion to a captaincy, and was preparing to accompany his regiment to the West, when prostrated by disease accelerated by exposure in the service of his country. His remains were taken to Pittston, Penn., Tuesday, for interment.

The Western Railroad Strike.

CHICAGO, March 15, 1864.

The engineers on the Milwaukee, Northwestern and Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroads are running their trains as usual to-day. The Michigan Southern, Illinois Central and the Alton and St. Louis railroads have enough engineers who are not connected with the strike to run their regular passenger trains. It is not believed there will be any serious delay in the running of the freight trains.

The Sailing of the Steamship Canada.

BOSTON, March 15, 1864.

The mails per the steamship Canada, for Liverpool, via Halifax, will close at eleven o'clock to-morrow (Wednesday) morning; but she will not sail until half-past one o'clock on that afternoon.

Court Calendar—This Day.

SUPREME COURT—CIRCUIT.—Part 1—Adjourned to Monday, 21st inst. Part 3 (3 Duane street)—Nos. 1279, 818, 62, 936, 1068, 108, 792, 1108, 1110, 1114, 1116, 1118, 1120, 1122, 1124, 1126, 1128, 380, 783, 1130.

SUPERIOR COURT.—Part 1—Nos. 3041, 3291, 1005, 3317, 547, 3378, 3387, 2999, 3427, 1125, 3373, 3375, 3377, 3379, 3381. Part 2—Nos. 2372, 3122, 1822, 380, 3140, 3282, 3390, 3392, 2062, 3403, 1062, 3360, 2942, 3378, 526.

COMMON PLEAS.—Part 1—Nos. 370, 155, 29, 464, 434, 211, 232, 433, 321, 469, 484, 59, 439, 296, 263. Part 2—Nos. 361, 97, 403, 461, 397, 157, 296, 118, 159, 448, 460, 447, 65, 310, 453.

THE PRESIDENCY.

Kentucky State Convention.

The Union Central Committee of Kentucky have issued the following call:—

The majority of the Central Committee appointed by the Union Convention of the State of Kentucky that assembled in Louisville on the 18th of March, 1863, consider it their duty and right to call another convention.

Wherefore, it is resolved, That the voters of our State who stand upon and endorse the platform adopted by the Union Democratic Convention held in the city of Louisville on the 18th of March last, and who desire to carry it out, be requested to send delegates to a convention to be held in the said city on the 25th of May next, for the purpose of forming a State electoral ticket and selecting delegates to the Union Conservative National Convention which meets in the city of Chicago on the 4th of July next.

JAMES GUTHRIE, Chairman.
GEORGE D. PRENTICE.
R. KNOTT.
GEO. P. DOERN.
HAMILTON POPE.

The Albany Journal Evidently Leaning towards Grant or McClellan.

[From the Albany Evening Journal.]

Armies seem secondary to the excitement of politics. The people are carried away by this warm debate. Every loyal newspaper is for Mr. Lincoln, Mr. Chase or General Butler. Almost every Legislature, State Convention or Union Club has published its Presidential preference.—*Philadelphia Press.*

The *Press* does the people injustice. It is only politicians who subordinate the war to President making. It is only men who care more for party than they do for the country who are "carried away by the warm debate" as to who shall dispense the government patronage for the next four years. The people are sound to the core. They are for the Union, first, last and only. They look upon its salvation as the paramount work of the hour. They regard the war as the great instrument by which such salvation is to be achieved. It is for its vigorous prosecution that they pray, it is to its triumphant conclusion they look as the only guarantee of future national existence. *They care little for men. They have no idols except such as do good service against the rebellion; they have no preferences*, except for such as will most effectually further the cause of the country. They have neither time nor disposition *to avenge anybody's personal wrongs or fight anybody's personal battles.*

And it will be well for those who expect favors at the hands of the people to understand that the only electioneering that will prove effective will be to strike at the rebellion; and that he will stand the best chance of future preferment who has thought *most of his country* and *least of himself.*

[From same paper.]

GENERAL GRANT COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

We presume the report is correct that General Grant has been assigned the position of Commander-in-Chief of all the armies, vice General Halleck, now Chief of Staff. This change will impose new and heavy responsibilities upon General Grant; and it is a question which will excite serious apprehensions among those who most admire him for what he has accomplished, whether he will prove himself adequate to these new responsibilities. To direct a fighting force extending from the Potomac to the Gulf, and to so manœuvre each separate army as to render each co-operative and effective, will require more brain than courage. The greatest general who ever lived never had a task assigned him involving greater perils and complications.

Thus far Gen. Grant has proved himself adequate to every emergency. He seems to grow in intellectual depth and breadth with every new responsibility; and those who have watched his career most studiously are most confident of his ability to successfully perform the duties of his new position. That he may, will be the ardent prayer of even those who fear; for our success or failure in the approaching campaign depends more upon the strategic skill of the head that directs than upon the power and endurance of the muscle that executes.

The Anti-Lincoln German Movement.

The Hermann (Mo.) *Volksblatt* has also hoisted John C. Fremont's name as the people's candidate for the Presidency. The German Organization Society of Dubuque, Iowa, has passed a resolution that it will not support Mr. Lincoln for a second term under any circumstances.

General Fremont.

[From the Troy (democratic) Press.]

The withdrawal of Secretary Chase as a candidate for the Republican nomination gives fresh courage to the friends of General Fremont. We may expect that from this time forward to the holding of the Republican National Convention, the admirers of the "Pathfinder" will be active and energetic. It is well known that the German element of the West is largely in Fremont's favor, while he has a strong hold on his party throughout all the Northern States. As an "emancipationist," he is a long way ahead of President Lincoln, since he issued his "proclamation" of freedom in Missouri in 1861—for which Lincoln removed him—and the Presidential proclamation was not issued for more than a year afterwards. If the General can secure the republican nomination over Lincoln, supported as the latter will be by the immense patronage and power in his hands, it will be the greatest triumph in his life. It is true, he is not fit for the Presidency, but in this Lincoln has no advantage over him.

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS.—A correspondent of the Boston *Advertiser* recommends to the one-term men the Hon. Charles Francis Adams for President Lincoln's successor.

The Battle of Gettysburg.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

The article of "Historicus," on the battle of Gettysburg, in the HERALD of the 12th instant, closes by saying, "Some slight errors may have crept in; but this may possibly stimulate others to come forward with a rectification." It is hoped, therefore, that the following short "rectification" may find a place in your columns.

The first statement of "Historicus" to which I give my attention is the indirect assertion that the arrival of the Third division of the Third corps, about four o'clock in the afternoon, on the field, put an end to the conflict on the 1st of July and relieved the First and Eleventh corps from imminent peril. The facts are that there was no fighting, save light skirmishing, after three o'clock in the afternoon, and that General Sickles' command did not make its appearance till nearly six o'clock. One division of the Twelfth corps, under General Geary, which "Historicus" says was four miles in the rear of the battle field, had already been placed by General Hancock in or near the position taken up by the Third corps on its arrival. I may remark here that "Historicus" studiously avoids mentioning General Hancock's name in his account of the operations of July 1—a very strange mistake for an "eye witness." When General Sickles arrived at Gettysburg General Howard was not the commanding officer, and had not been for some time. He was first superseded by General Hancock, by virtue of the written order of General Meade, and afterwards by the arrival of General Slocum, his superior in rank. The account is very much like the play of Hamlet with the part of the Prince of Denmark omitted.

The next statement which I notice is that a conference of "leading generals" took place, when some insisted on falling back on Taneytown, &c. It would be interesting to know who the "leading generals" referred to were. It is said, indeed, that General Howard, who enjoys in the estimation of the public—I will not say how justly—the honors of the day, had decided to retreat from Gettysburg. But it is certainly true that the leading general, Major General Hancock, entertained no such proposition after he assumed command, and long before the arrival of General Sickles had selected the lines of battle on which the troops were established as they came up. The left of that line was Roundtop Hill, and its general direction was that of the ridge connecting Roundtop, Cemetery and Culp's hills, and was held by the Second and Third corps.

"Historicus" now endeavors to create the impression that the ridge or elevated ground connecting the left of the Second corps was far to his front.

I assert that General Sickles moved from the ridge described by "Historicus" and precipitated the battle on most unfortunate ground. It hardly seems possible that one who has ever seen the ground can gainsay this.

When General Sickles moved forward his corps on the afternoon of the 2d of July from its appropriate place in the general line he excited the astonishment of the thousands of lookers on. It was a magnificent sight, but excited the gravest apprehension, and the writer well recollects the remarks made at the time by some prominent officers. The right of his line was entirely disconnected from the Second corps, leaving an interval of from one-half to one-quarter of a mile. General Gibbon, commanding the Second corps, at this moment threw forward into this interval two regiments of infantry and a battery, which were nearly destroyed when the shock fell on Sickles' corps. A like interval was left between the right of the Fifth corps and the left of the Third. In this position, with no connection on his right or left, General Sickles became engaged. Had the Second and Fifth corps been moved up to conform to this line the battle would have been delivered in front of the strong features of the ground, and could hardly have helped being disastrous.

Through the intervals above described the enemy penetrated with determination, pressing on until they were checked nearly on the original line—on the one flank by the Fifth corps and on the other by the Second. In the attempt to extricate General Sickles from his unfortunate position these two corps lost nearly three thousand men.

"Historicus" asserts that General Sickles called on the heroic troops of the Second corps for support, &c. The truth is this:—One division of the Second corps, under Brigadier General Caldwell, was sent to report to Major General Sykes, of the Fifth corps, and was posted by one of his staff officers. This division became heavily engaged with the force of the enemy that had turned Sickles' flank, and was overpowered. The blow then fell on General Ayres' division, of the Fifth corps, which lost over fifty per cent of its numbers, holding its position most obstinately.

General Zook, so highly complimented by "Historicus," commanded a brigade of Caldwell's division.

When night fell our lines were where they were first established and where the next day's attack was received; but the gallant dead of the third corps were so far to the front that large numbers of them remained within the enemy's lines until after Lee retreated.

I have no disposition to pursue further the examination of "Historicus" article. I have endeavored to show that, instead of saving the army, General Sickles nearly ruined it by a sad error—an unaccountable one. He must have known that to hold the lines he assumed the grave responsibility of moving on to necessitated an entire change of the positions of the troops on his right and left, and this at the moment when the enemy had already massed his columns for the attack. Pray where would the most zealous defender of General Sickles have placed the Second corps in such a contingency? Not on the ground that it held on the 3d against Longstreet. That was no place for it, nor is there a just defence for the movements of General Sickles. ANOTHER EYE WITNESS.

Reception of the Fifty-sixth New York Volunteers.

The Sons of Orange and Sullivan yesterday received the Fifty-sixth New York Volunteers, Colonel Van Wyck, recently returned from the seat of war on furlough, with especial honors. The regiment was publicly presented with their new colors in the City Hall Park, after which, headed by Dodworth's band, it marched up Broadway to the Seventh regiment armory, where its old, war worn and honored colors were returned for safe keeping to the Sons who presented them to the regiment on its first departure for the field. Colonel Van Wyck delivered the speech on returning the colors, recommending greater activity and energy in the carrying on of the war, and was replied to by the Rev. Dr. Bell, who received the same on behalf of the Sons. A collation was then served up, after which the regiment returned to the Park Barracks via Astor place and Broadway, and there broke ranks. The reception was a neat affair, and was attended by a large number of ladies.

The regiment took its share in nearly all the battles on the peninsula, after which it went to South Carolina, where it participated in the reduction of Fort Wagner and the bombardment of Charleston. It has re-enlisted, and will return shortly to the field.

Obstructions in the Streets.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

His Honor the Mayor has, in a formal message to the Common Council, suggested the prop