NEW YORK HERALD.

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Irving Place.—ITALIAN OPERA—IONE.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—FOOL'S REVENGE.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway.—MONEY.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway.—JUDITH.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway.—IRISH EMIGRANT—LAUGHING HYENA.

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—FRENCH SPY—LANDSHARKS AND SEA GULLS—JACK SHEPPARD—ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—POMP OF CUDJO'S CAVE—NORAH CRINA—ALICE MAY.

BARNUM'S MUSEUM, Broadway.—FOUR GIANTS, TWO DWARFS, ALBINOS, WHAT IS IT, &c., at all hours. AFRIKA SIA, OR SPIRIT OF BEAUTY—At 3and 7½ P. M.

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

WOOD'S MINSTREL HALL, 514 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN SONGS, DANCES, &c.—AFRICAN CAMILLE.

AMERICAN THEATRE, No. 444 Broadway.—BALLETS, PANTOMIMES, BURLESQUES, &c.—OLD GRANNY GRUMPY.

BROADWAY AMPHITHEATRE, 485 Broadway.—GYMNASTIC AND EQUESTRIAN PERFORMANCES.

HIPPOTHEATRON, Fourteenth street.—PERFORMING DOGS AND MONKEYS. Afternoon and Evening.

HOPE CHAPEL, 718 Broadway.—STEREOSCOPTICON OR MIRROR OF UNIVERSE, AND TWENTY-SEVENTH STREET GHOST.

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.

WITH SUPPLEMENT.

New York, Saturday, April 9, 1864.

THE SITUATION.

A little more sunshine will put the roads in Virginia in available condition for the contemplated movements. Parties of engineers and pioneers are putting the damaged bridges, which suffered from the recent flood, in order. General Lee continues actively to strengthen his position by defensive works on the south of the Rapidan.

Our despatches from Fortress Monroe report a gunboat expedition to the Chickahominy of a mysterious character, which reached safely within fifteen miles of Richmond, and returned on Friday with forty negro prisoners.

The Union gunboats had a fight with the rebels at Hickman, Ky., on Tuesday, and captured some of them. There is nothing further of importance from the southwest. It was rumored at Memphis that the rebel Forrest was contemplating an attack on that place.

CONGRESS.

Our reports of the proceedings of Congress yesterday are interesting and important.

In the Senate the debate on the amendment to the constitution, whereby slavery is to be forever prohibited throughout the land, was concluded, and after some futile efforts on the part of its opponents to delay final action, the joint resolution of the Judiciary Committee was accepted. A two-thirds vote was necessary to secure the success of the measure, but the record stands as follows:—

For the amendment	38
Against the amendment	6
Total	44
Absent	5

The negative votes were cast by Messrs. Davis and Powell, of Kentucky; Saulsbury and Riddle, of Delaware; McDougall, of California; and Hendricks, of Indiana. The absentees were Messrs. Buckalew, (opp.) of Pennsylvania; Carlile, (opp.) of West Virginia; Hicks, (opp.) of Maryland; Richardson, (opp.) of Illinois; and Wright, (opp.) of New Jersey.

The Senate also adopted the bill repealing the first section of the joint resolution authorizing the transfer of men from the army to the navy. Mr. Sherman introduced a bill to provide for a national currency secured by the pledge of United States stocks, and to provide for the circulation and redemption thereof. The bill is nearly the same as that proposed by Mr. Hooper in the House. It was referred to the Committee on Finance. A bill regulating the foreign and coasting trade was referred to the Committee on Commerce. Several unimportant subjects were introduced and appropriately disposed of, and the Senate adjourned.

In the House of Representatives the bill providing for the erection of a new jail in the District of Columbia came up for consideration, and Mr. Patterson, of New Hampshire, and Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, indulged in what pugilists would call a lively "turn up," the former repudiating with scorn and contempt, &c., and hurling in Mr. Washburne's teeth, the imputation that he supported a swindle in voting for an appropriation to purchase land in Charlestown for naval purposes. The Committee on Elections reported that neither Mr. Loan nor Mr. Bruce is entitled to represent the Seventh district of Missouri. A minority report, declaring Mr. Loan entitled to retain his seat, was submitted. The Committee of Ways and Means were instructed to inquire into the expediency of reporting a bill laying ad valorem taxes on all sales of bonds, stocks, specie, merchandise of all descriptions, and on the receipts of railroads, coal, gas and all other incorporated companies. The Senate bill extending the time for States to accept grants of land for agricultural colleges was amended so as to include West Virginia in its provisions, and then passed. The House then went into Committee of the Whole, and Mr. Long, of Ohio, made a speech on the war, and in the course of his remarks boldly declared in favor of the recognition of the rebel confederacy. Gen. Garfield, of Ohio, replied with much patriotic warmth and eloquence. The discussion was continued till after six o'clock, when the House adjourned.

THE LEGISLATURE.

The proceedings of the Legislature yesterday were unusually interesting, especially to those connected with city railroad projects.

In the Senate the Committee on Railroads made a favorable report on the bill authorizing the Harlem Railroad Company to increase its capital stock three millions of dollars and convert its mortgage bonds into stock. The same committee reported adversely upon the Broadway Underground and Thirty-second street Railroad projects, and also against the bill imposing a tax of ten per cent on the gross receipts of New York city railroads for the benefit of the city treasury. These adverse reports were laid on the table. The Assembly bill to enable the Children's Aid Society of the city of New York to hold real and personal estate was reported favorably; also the bill to tax dividends of Massachusetts stockholders in New York corporations. The Assembly bill regulating the mode for soldiers to cast their votes was reported favorably, without amendment. A petition of Hawley D. Clapp, a prisoner in Fort Lafayette, invoking the protection of the State, was received and referred to the Judiciary Committee. The vote by which the bill regulating wharves in New York that may be used by the Raritan and Delaware Railroad was lost, was reconsidered, and the bill passed. The bills to amend the charter of the New York Medical College for Women; to amend the charter of the Home Insurance Company of the city of New York, and that to incorporate the Erie Dock Company basin in the city of Brooklyn, were also passed.

In the Assembly several bills were passed, among them one providing that divorces may be granted and marriages dissolved whenever there has been a wilful and continued desertion of a wife by her husband, or of a husband by his wife, for ten consecutive years, provided there is at the time of the commencement of the action no living issue of the marriage.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

The number of visitors to the Sanitary Fair yesterday, both in Fourteenth street and Union square, amounted to about thirty-four thousand. The gross receipts up to the present time are about $400,000. McClellan is eight pages ahead in the sword contest, and last evening lead Grant by two hundred and nine on yesterday's vote.

The directors of the Fourth National Bank of this city are seeking to remove their President, ex-Mayor Opdyke, and the matter came up in the Supreme Court Chambers yesterday, before Judge Peckham, on a motion made by David D. Field to enjoin the directors from removing Mr. Opdyke from office. Judge Woodruff, who appeared for the bank and the directors, stated that the association had full power under the act of Congress to remove Mr. Opdyke, and that the Court had no right to interfere with the directors in the exercise of their discretion. The Court took the papers and reserved its decision. A meeting of the stockholders of this bank will be held on Thursday next for the purpose of considering the matter of Mr. Opdyke's removal and for the transaction of other important business.

The case of John W. Hunter was yesterday again under examination before the United States Commissioner. Mr. Cisco, the Assistant Treasurer, was examined as a witness. He gave some very important evidence. The case stands adjourned till Monday next.

Judge Miller, of the Supreme Court, is engaged in trying the case of William H. Little vs. Herrick & Son and others. The plaintiff claims that in May, 1863, he sold one hundred and fifty barrels of flour to a man named Hicks; but before the latter had paid for the same he removed the property from the place where it was stored, and transferred it to Messrs. Herrick & Son for a consideration. Hicks absconded immediately after this transaction, leaving Little completely in the lurch, and the flour was subsequently removed to the store of Sherwood & Allen, who refuse to deliver it up to the plaintiff unless ordered to do so by Herrick & Son. The latter claim that the flour came into their hands in the legitimate course of trade, and refuse to deliver it up. The case is still on.

In the Court of Common Pleas yesterday, before Judge Cardoza, the case of Brown's Water Furnace Company vs. Richard French attracted some attention. The plaintiffs sue sue for a balance of five hundred dollars alleged to be due them in the construction of a heating apparatus for the defendant's house in Gramercy Park. The defence set up is that the work was not done according to agreement, and that the defendant's house was never warm above the second story. Mr. French says he suffered a great deal from the inconvenience, and was put to the expense of having grate fires through the upper part of his dwelling, which entailed an increased expense of no inconsiderable amount. The jury were unable to agree when the court adjourned for the day.

Henry H. Morange vs. Stephen Burkhalter, in the Marine Court, before Judge Hearn, proved somewhat interesting. The plaintiff sought to recover five hundred dollars for services rendered the defendant as counsellor at law. Burkhalter's son, it appears, got into trouble with a woman named Eccleston, and was sued for abandonment, but, through the exertions of his lawyer, was relieved of the incubus and got a divorce. For successfully accomplishing this delicate task Morange asked seven hundred dollars; but Burkhalter refused to give any more than three hundred, which he had already paid on account. The jury rendered a verdict for the plaintiff, assessing the damages at four hundred and thirty dollars.

Maria L. Lacroix obtained a verdict against the city in the Court of Common Pleas, before Judge Brady, yesterday, in consequence of injuries done her property by the July rioters. The plaintiff owned the premises No. 75 Roosevelt street, and claimed damage to the amount of fifteen hundred dollars, but through the exertions of Mr. Hackett, the Corporation Counsel, the amount was cut down to nine hundred and sixty dollars.

The will of Robert McClellan has been admitted to probate. The testator bequeathed $2,500 to the Princeton Theological Seminary. Wm. Donovan's will has also been admitted. It contains charitable bequests of several small sums, amounting altogether to three hundred dollars to various Roman Catholic institutions.

The great billiard match for the championship and one thousand dollars, between Dudley Kavanagh, of this city, and Philip Tieman, of Cincinnati, which came off at Irving Hall on Thursday night, resulted in a triumph for Kavanagh. The game (a carom one of one thousand five hundred points) was well contested, and produced universal satisfaction among the thousands who witnessed the performance. Tieman was beaten two hundred and thirty-five points.

There was a breakdown in the share market yesterday, and the whole list, with the exception of Harlem, which advanced five per cent, declined from a half to four and a half. Very little was doing in the gold exchange, and the quotations—169¾ to 170—were merely nominal. Government securities were firm, and the five-twenties advanced to 112. Money was active at the full legal rate of interest.

There was considerable activity in commercial circles yesterday, and the sales were fair in many articles, chiefly on speculation, at a higher range of prices. All imported commodities were firmer, and some were altogether higher, with some considerable business at the advanced prices. Groceries were firmer. Cotton was firm. Petroleum was more active and higher, with a large business. On 'Change, the leading feature was the steady rise in flour, pork, whiskey and tallow, with large transactions in each. Wheat was 1c. a 2c. better, but not active, owing to the reduced supply. Corn was firmly held, but comparatively quiet from the same cause. Oats closed in favor of the buyer. Lard was firm, but not higher. Freights were extremely dull. In fact, yesterday was conceded to be the dullest day in freights for months. Even at the present extremely low rates (which are not much better than those for ballast), it is hard to procure cargoes.

The Abolition of Slavery by the Amendment of the Constitution.

The views which the HERALD has so strongly urged for a long time past with regard to the constitutional abolition of slavery, as a necessity of the age, as well as a safeguard against the agitation stimulated by fanaticism for corrupt or dangerous purposes, have been most triumphantly endorsed by the vote in the Senate yesterday, on the report of the Judiciary Committee. The joint resolution amending the constitution so as virtually to abolish slavery—if the lower house should concur in a two-thirds vote—passed the Senate by a vote of thirty-eight to six—the two Senators from Delaware, Saulsbury and Riddle; the two from Kentucky, Powell and Davis; McDougall, of California, and Hendricks, of Indiana, alone voting against it. It now remains to be seen whether the House of Representatives will ratify the progressive action of the Senate. We have great hopes that it will. Then the Legislatures of the different States, or State Conventions, as Congress may decide, will be called upon to pronounce as to the amendment of the constitution. This they must do by a vote of three-fourths of their number in order to make the action valid.

THE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION.—There is a controversy in the republican party as to when its Convention shall be held for the nomination of a candidate for the next Presidency. The Republican National Committee has designated the 6th of June as the day on which the Convention shall be held; but some members of that committee desire that it shall be held later, and there is a movement on foot to change the day. It is supposed that those who are in favor of the Convention meeting in June, as designated, favor the nomination of Lincoln; while those who favor the postponement are regarded as opposed to him, as the movement for postponement is regarded as a movement to gain time for his defeat. All this controversy is fruitless, bootless and ridiculous. It makes no difference when the Convention meets, or whether it meets at all. Both this shoddy Convention of those in favor of Lincoln or another republican and the shent-per-shent Convention are bodies without constituents—bodies with whose organization the people have nothing to do, and as to whose actions the people are indifferent. Congress is the legitimate representative of the American people, entitled to speak for the people with authority, and to be heard over all the clamor of the corrupt coteries of contractors and placeholders; and the members opposed to the re-election, or even the renomination, of Lincoln should take such definite and unmistakable action on this matter as will supersede the Convention.

Congress, the Administration and the Country.

There are some signs in the late proceedings of the two houses of an "irrepressible conflict" between the present Congress and the administration. In the unmeasured financial, military and civil powers voted to the President by the last Congress he was amply provided with the ways and means for bringing the war to a speedy conclusion. But in a military view, and financially and politically, he has signally failed. The leading members of the present Congress, who were the leading members of the last, thus finding him unequal to the great requirements of his position, are evidently resolved to drop him, and to act in reference to their legislative measures without consulting his peculiar whims and fancies.

In this view the first and the most urgently needed measure adopted at the present session was that which has resulted in placing General Grant in the active command of all the armies of the United States. But a leading motive, if not the principal object, of the two houses in this measure was the displacement of General Halleck from the supreme managing military bureau at Washington; and this object has been defeated in the retention by the President of General Halleck at his side as his Chief of Staff. From this partial and qualified fulfilment—from this adroit evasion, we may say, of the purpose of the law—Mr. Lincoln has only added another to those frequent cases of offence in which he has construed or disregarded, enlarged or diminished, the measures of Congress to suit his own ideas of expediency.

It is not surprising, therefore, that, in contempt of his preposterous projects of emancipation and reconstruction, the Senate should proceed, as it has proceeded, to that broad, practical and comprehensive measure of the abolition of slavery through an amendment of the federal constitution. In this proceeding the Senate substantially warns Mr. Lincoln that his petty tinkering devices of emancipation will not answer, and that if he desires the abolition of slavery in the reconstruction of the Union there is but one course to pursue—the course of action ordained in the supreme law of the land. Let us hope that this commendable movement of the Senate will not be lost upon the administration, although our amiable President, in his rustic simplicity, may still imagine that his way is better than the constitutional way of action. In any event, it is a matter of satisfaction that the Senate has resolved to follow his abolition jack-o'-lanterns no longer.

The House of Representatives, next, in its late emphatic and unanimously adopted resolution against the Napoleonic seizure of Mexico, has not only given great satisfaction to the country, but has administered a deliberate rebuke against the namby-pamby, wish-washy foreign policy of the administration. The House declares that we have had too much of this, and that the country is strong enough, and ready, even with this great rebellion upon its hands, to maintain its dignity before the nations of Europe. If this administration cannot be brought to face these responsibilities it must be superseded. This is really the position of the House of Representatives, without a dissenting voice.

In yet another matter—the new Tax bill—the House is laboring to extricate the country from its perils without special regard to the policy of the administration—the foolish policy of putting off the payment of its debts. A new Tax bill to the extent of three or four hundred millions will give something of substantial value to our Treasury notes. Nothing else will keep them from depreciating to a fearful collapse. A general bank bill is a mere matter of form, and will afford no solid relief in any shape short of taxation. But there is yet one thing, and the most important of all, upon which this Congress is called to act, and without further delay. We mean this thing of setting aside this blundering and incompetent administration, beginning with Abraham Lincoln. There is but a sorry prospect that, under his management, the Union will be restored or the war ended by March, 1865, or by March, 1869.

Why, then, with this opinion evidently predominant in both houses—why is it that there is no movement in either to secure an acceptable Union candidate for the succession? Why wait upon that self-constituted and irresponsible gathering of vagrant politicians known as the National Party Convention? Let it be superseded and abolished by the independent action of the responsible representatives of the people in Congress. Why not? A general caucus of the war and Union members of both houses, regardless of party lines, could in a single sitting do away with all the packed conventions appointed upon this business. Let Congress, then, while about it, make thorough work of the present incapable administration by providing for the people the candidate and the opportunity for a complete reform.

We have had twenty-eight years of these convention nominated Presidents, and every one of them has been a failure; till here we are, in the midst of the most terrible war in the history of mankind. Now let us have a change.

THE STRIKE QUESTION.—The excitement created amongst the working classes by the bill now before the Legislature prohibiting trade strikes is assuming a very serious aspect. If the measure be persisted in there is no answering for the consequences. Workingmen say that the Legislature has no right to interfere with their trade arrangements; and no more has it, so long as they are confined within proper limits. Why should operatives be made exceptions to the privileges enjoyed by other classes? The manufacturer strikes for higher prices, so does the butcher, the baker, the fishmonger, the greengrocer, the milkman and the storekeepers and boss employers of every kind. People grumble against them for doing it; but they do not rush to the Legislature with their complaints or withdraw their custom. They know that there are natural laws which regulate these things, and that any attempt they may make to control them by artificial means will only render matters worse.

Legislation in regard to strikes, except so far as it goes to prohibit violence, is just now not only impolitic, but dangerous. At a time when the necessaries of life are being forced up to prices which place them almost beyond the reach of the workingman the Legislature is asked to pass a law to prevent him exacting for his labor wages commensurate with the present high rates of living. The thing is so manifestly unfair that it is not to be wondered at that it has excited a great deal of bad feeling. If the Legislature will interfere in such matters, let it begin at the right end, and take in hand the monopolists who speculate on the necessities of the working classes, and who force them to combine for the purpose of protecting themselves. There are measures which it could legitimately pass for this object, and which, though pressed upon its attention, it has not as yet even noticed. Why, for instance, does it not at once give us a law preventing railways charging more than two cents a ton freight on coal, which they have it in contemplation to do as soon as the Legislature adjourns? That would be one of the legitimate ways to prevent trade strikes. Reduce the cost of living by judicious legislation, and workmen will not be forced to combine to defend their interests. Our Albany Solons do not appear to comprehend this, or, if they do, they find it to their interest to ignore it. We tell them emphatically that the people will not stand any more class legislation. If it be the object of their mission merely to protect the interests of monopolists and speculators, they will be taught at the polls that their duties had a wider range. Some of them may acquire sooner an unpleasant consciousness of the fact, if recent indications are to be taken as an evidence of the feeling of the working classes in their regard.

FINDING BOTTOM.—We are approaching soundings in the way of taxation at a tolerably fair rate of speed, but not fast enough. The pace should be accelerated, so that we can find bottom as soon as possible. The quicker the better. The tax levy of the city of New York for the next fiscal year amounts to fifteen millions of dollars—three millions more than last year; and committees of rich men and Knickerbocker wiseacres are going to Albany to have the tax reduced. This is sheer nonsense. What is the use of lobbying on the subject? Are not all our tax burdens and tremendous public debt the offsprings of the moral, religious, political and financial false trainings of past years? The bitter fruits of bad and corrupt legislation? How are committees to correct the evil? The State of New York, it is authoritatively stated, is now—including city, county and town debts—one thousand millions of dollars in debt—two-thirds the aggregate value of all the property of the people, which, according to the last valuation, does not quite reach fifteen hundred millions. What is the use, then, of trying to cut off a paltry couple of millions or so in the matter of taxation? Instead of reducing the tax levy for the city it should be increased from fifteen to twenty millions of dollars; and twenty-five millions will not be too small a sum for the succeeding fiscal year. Let the State debt be increased from a thousand millions to two thousand millions, and let us have an entire change in property holding in the State. Let us get at the bottom as soon as possible, and begin again. Look at the present state of legislation: workingmen appealing to their servants in Albany to perform for them an act of plain justice. We shall probably next have the Solons in Albany proposing to sell the workingmen in order to defray the expenses of freeing the niggers. We are living in wonderful times, in very costly times, and the sooner we get at the bottom the better. Pile on taxation.

OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS AGAIN.—The necessity for a reform in our public school system is now generally admitted. We have not heard a single objection to it. But the people demand a real, not a sham, reform. Mr. Benedict's bill, now before the Legislature, is a sham reform. It is a half-and-half arrangement, a politician's measure, a miserable, bungling abortion. Is there not a member of the Legislature from this city who has the sense and wisdom to draw up and present a good, efficient bill?

We want school commissioners appointed by the Governor, to consist of one editor, one clergyman, one lawyer, one merchant, one mechanic, and so on, including every class of society; but of course not every class of business men. The groggeries and the ward politicians who meet in them must be excluded altogether. They have nearly ruined our school system already. Is not this plan very clear, plain and practical? If so, why cannot it be adopted instead of Benedict's blundering, bungling bill?

"But," says some of the Albany sticklers, "this would be unconstitutional." Nonsense. The same objection was made to the Metropolitan Police bill, but was obviated by erecting two or three counties into a police district, thus creating entirely new offices. Now, let us have a Metropolitan School district, composed of New York, Brooklyn and Williamsburg. We are in favor of including Jersey City and Hoboken also, if New Jersey will let them come in. Then the bill will create new offices, and the constitutional difficulty will be obviated. It is always easy enough to do these things if legislators have the mind to do them. Have our legislators the mind to make a thorough reform in the school system? If so, they must vote down Benedict's abortive bill, and draw a new one as above suggested.

THE TAXES—THE SINEWS OF WAR.—It is evident that the present Congress must take the responsibility that was avoided by the last one of providing by taxation a revenue that shall be equal to the extraordinary expenses of the government. Our present taxes are totally inadequate to meet those expenses, and in some respects the Tax bill is a failure. Several of the States, for instance, have made no return at all from the income tax, and others have made a very small one. Congress must go over this whole matter earnestly, and must give us a tax bill that will yield three or four hundred million dollars a year, or the credit of the country is gone. It matters not what kind of a bank bill we have. Our present bank system and the greenbacks seem to be sufficient for the business of the country. But with the question of taxes it is different. Congress has a great and all important duty to perform in the preparation of a new tax bill that it must face boldly and go through with. National bankruptcy will otherwise be the result, and our finances will fall into as lamentable a condition as the finances of the rebel States are in now.

Lookout Lighthouse Destroyed by the Rebels.

FORTRESS MONROE, April 8, 1864.

The steamer Spaulding, just arrived from Newbern, reports that Cape Lookout Lighthouse was partially destroyed by the rebels, and there will probably be no light there for a week.

Lieutenant Colonel W. T. Jonhson, United States Army, Medical Inspector of this Department, arrived on the Spaulding.

Navigation Westward.

CLEVELAND, April 8, 1864.

The propeller Olean arrived from Dunkirk last evening. No ice in sight west of Dunkirk.

The Erie Railway Company's boats will now commence their regular trips for the season.

NEWS FROM CALIFORNIA.

Adjournment of the Legislature—Appropriation for the Pacific Railroad—Shipping News, &c.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 4, 1864.

Arrived, ships Swallow, from Boston; Franklin, from New York.

The Legislature adjourns finally at twelve o'clock tonight. The only act passed of interest outside of California is one whereby the State engages to pay the interest on a million and a half dollars of the Central Pacific Railroad Company's bonds for twenty years. In approving this act the Governor expressed the belief that any future Legislature will have the power to repeal it.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 5, 1864.

Arrived, ship Hornet, from New York. She reports having spoken, April 1, in latitude thirty north, ship Enterprise, from New York for San Francisco.

Lieut. Col. Geo. H. Ringgold died yesterday. A military funeral will be given him from St. Mary's cathedral to-morrow.

The Legislature adjourned at midnight, not to meet again for two years. Many bills of local interest were vetoed or retained in the Governor's possession.

The bill submitting to a vote of the people a proposition to issue half a million dollars of State bonds to the Western Pacific Railroad Company, and a million and a half to the Central Pacific Railroad Company, was vetoed on the ground of unconstitutionality.

Under another bill the Central Company has the interest on a million and a half of its bonds paid by the State for twenty years, as reported yesterday.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 6, 1864.

Arrived, ships Haze, Witch of the Wave, Enterprise, Moravia and Valparaiso, from New York.

Sailed, steamer John L. Stephens, for northwestern ports of Mexico, with merchandise and mining machinery, valued at one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. This is the second large ocean steamer now plying between San Francisco and Mexico, each making about monthly trips.

Business generally is very dull. Blasting powder has declined to six dollars per keg.

The last bill passed by the late Legislature was one donating $250 per month during the ensuing five years to Captain Sutter, the California pioneer.

Volunteering for the Navy.

SCENES AT HEADQUARTERS—NEGROES AND WHITE WOMEN—BLACK SAILORS IN EMBRYO.

A case of practical miscegenation came before Chairman Blunt, of the Supervisors' Volunteering Committee, yesterday, which was a pretty clear illustration of the morality of the new doctrine of the *Tribune*. A big six foot black fellow, blacker than the ace of spades—as a bystander expressed it, so black you could'nt see him—came yesterday into the office of the committee for his bounty money, he having enlisted in the navy. He was closely followed by a sharp visaged white woman, who, on his receiving his money, asked him if he was going to leave her, without giving her anything to support herself.

The appeal was evidently expected by the darkey, for he suddenly and roughly exclaimed, "What hab dis chile to do with you?" The woman, with Yankee proclivities, for she was evidently from "deown East," replied—"Neow Robert, yeou know yeou have been living with me for more than a year. Yeou know my situation. Haven't I been keind to yeou? And neow yeou're goin' away and leave me nothing. Heow can I support myself, and——" and the flowing tears showed that she had some apprehension of the future. Mr. Blunt said to the negro, "Is this your wife?" "Oh, no sa, no sa, not by no means whatsomdever; no sa, she am not 'zactly my wife." "Ah!" exclaims the Supervisor. "And he has got my watch too, he has," says the woman to Mr. Blunt. "Have you got her watch, Robert?" "Wall, yes, yes, sir, I believe I has." "Why do you not give it to her, then?" "I is perfectly willin' to do dat, but ye see Bill Jonsin has it." "Well, give her an order to get it." "Yes, sa; I is perfectly willin'." So an order was written on Bill Jonsin for the watch, which Sambo signed with "his mark." Susannah, for that was her name, left with the document, but returned in the course of an hour and said she had seen Bill; but he wouldn't give it up until the money Robert owed him was paid. "Then you owe him money," says the chairman. "I does," says Jupiter. "You see, sa, my financiums was exhaust, and I wanted some of de currency to investigate, and I got Bill to advance me three dollars on de clicker." "Three dollars," exclaimed Susannah, passionately; "why, you black heathen, 'twas worth more'n three times that. I had it when I lived to hum." "You know berry well," says Bob, "that when I took her she hadn't run more dan half the time for a month. You see, sa, I went one mornin' into Miss Robinson's and drop her on the stove. After dat she did'nt run a bit. I rather guess I scorched her." "But you had better give the woman the value of it and settle." "Well, Susannah, here's ten dollar for the old thing, which aint no better dan a white turnip." "I see that all you're goin' to give me?" "Well, you come ober to de ship, and we'll settle." "Yes, yeou want to git away, and then I'll never see any more of yeau." "Susannah, you are full of suspicions. Dare, dare, is ten more; dat is ten for de watch and ten for lub." "Oh, yeou brute; look, sir, (to Mr. Blunt) he's got my watch, got my character, got my, my—and all he has given to show for it is twenty dollars. Is that justice, sir?" But the negro had put his heel down, and would not budge. His constancy had oozed out, and he was ready to cast off his "white trash," like his betters. "Oh, you heathen brute," she exclaimed, "I wish you would soon get into a fight and a big fourteen hundred-pounder would hit yer—not on yer head, for there it would'nt hurt; but somewhere where it 'd smash yer. I hope (sobbing loudly) that—that they'll take yeou prisoner and put yeou on a plantation to pick sweet potatoes and dig cotton. I aint opposed to slavery any more. I a'nt." "I hope (with an energetic stamp of the foot) they'll get you and all the rest of your black, greasy, nasty tribe—I do—I say I do." The Supervisor, thinking the colloquy had gone on long enough, sent Susannah off, and turned Robert, who looked black and savage as an ebony Richard the Third, into select quarters for the volunteers. Such is practical miscegenation.

The Robbery at Messrs. H. B. Claflin & Co.'s Store.

TWO RECEIVERS AND ONE PORTER PLEAD GUILTY—STABBING AFFRAY IN A CHURCH STREET BALL ROOM.

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS.
Before City Judge A. D. Russel.

APRIL 8.—The court opened at eleven o'clock this morning, City Judge A. D. Russel presiding. A number of prisoners were brought down who had been indicted for complicity in the extensive robberies which have recently taken place at the store of Messrs. H. B. Claflin & Co., in Church street. John Jobman, a German, thirty-nine years of age, was placed at the bar on an indictment charging him with having received goods knowing them to have been stolen from the above mentioned store. He pleaded guilty, and was remanded for sentence. Louis Andressen, also a German, who has been carrying on the dry goods business in Fifth street, pleaded guilty to a similar indictment, and was remanded for sentence. Daniel Eginton, an Irishman, who had been employed as a porter in the store of Messrs. Claflin & Co., pleaded guilty of having stolen a piece of grenadine valued at fifty dollars. He acknowledged to Mr. Daniel H. Conkling, a member of the firm, that it was afterwards sold to Jobman. Egginton was sent to the State Prison for two years.

The amount of property stolen from the store of Messrs. Claflin & Co. is estimated at about thirty thousand dollars; but, through the exertions of Captain Jourdan, of the Sixth precinct, ten thousand dollars, in money and goods, has already been recoved.

John H. Beckett, a colored man, was placed at the bar on an indictment for murder, which charged him with having caused the death of a man named Richard Johnson, also colored, by stabbing him with a knife, on the 16th of February last. The affray took place in a ball-room in Church street, where deceased and prisoner got into an altercation about a quadrille. From words they proceeded to blows, when Beckett stabbed Johnson in the back, which caused his death in about one week afterwards. The Court decided to accept a plea of manslaughter in the fourth degree, and sentenced Beckett to the State Prison for two years.

The Court then adjourned until Monday next, at eleven o'clock.

Italian Opera.

FAUST.

Max Maretzek has a hard fight to make against the Fair; but he battles it out bravely. The twin magnets in Palace Garden and Union square draw many of the seekers of pleasure as well as the votaries of mercy to their shrines, and therefore it is not to be expected that the Opera House or the theatres will be as well filled as usual. Last night saw the twenty-eighth performance of Faust at the Academy, and although there was not a crush, such as this opera previously commanded, yet the house was well and brilliantly filled. We have nothing to complain of in regard to the rendering of the opera. Mazzoleni, as usual, sang finely, and exhibited his excellent dramatic powers well. Hermanns was, if possible, more full of vigor than ever, and was heartily encored in two or three of his principal parts. The Soldiers' Chorus—the sensation portion of the opera—was repeated, of course, in obedience to a hearty call from the audience.

To-night we have a benefit at the Academy. Mazzoleni appeals to the public whose favor he has already so well earned. Petrella's opera of Ione will be given on the occasion. We expect to see a crowded house, and we opine we shall not be disappointed. On Monday Robert le Diable will be produced, with Brignoli and Medori. On Wednesday Faust will be repeated.

FIRE IN CANAL STREET.—Shortly after six o'clock yesterday evening a fire broke out on the fourth floor of the building No. 308 Canal street, in the premises of William S. Demerell, manufacturer of artificial flowers. The flames were extinguished by the firemen before the fire extended beyond the floor on which it started. The damage to Mr. Demerell's stock will be about $1,000; said to be fully insured. The third floor is occupied by George E. Feuchsel, manufacturer of hair nets; loss about $200; insured. The second floor is occupied by Hecht Bros., importers and dealers in laces and fancy goods. Their stock is damaged by water about $3,000; insured for $47,000 as follows:—People's, $5,000; Tradesmen's, $4,000; Manhattan, $6,000; Columbia, $5,000; Brevoort, $2,500; Grocers', $2,500; Commonwealth, $5,000; Park, $3,000; Lenox, $5,000; Stuyvesant, $5,000, and Albany City, $5,000. The first floor is occupied by Hart Bros., dealers in straw goods; damage by water about $500; insured for $10,000 in the Brooklyn and Atlantic Insurance companies. The building is owned by Wilson & Dewey. It is damaged about $500; said to be insured. The origin of the fire is unknown at present, but it is under investigation by the Fire Marshal. Mr. Demerell, it is reported, had only left his premises a few minutes when the fire broke out.

POSTSCRIPT.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9—4 A. M.

IMPORTANT FROM LOUISIANA:

Battle Between General Smith and Dick Taylor's Forces on Cane River.

DEFEAT OF THE REBELS.

FIVE HUNDRED PRISONERS TAKEN

PURSUIT OF THE RETREATING ENEMY,

&c., &c., &c.

CAIRO, April 8, 1864.

The steamer Continental, from New Orleans on the evening of the 3d inst., has arrived, bringing a large number of government mules and wagons from Vicksburg.

Officers of steamers from Red river, report a considerable fight on Cane river, thirty-five miles above Alexandria, on the 28th ult., between General Smith's forces, consisting of 8,000 infantry under General Mower, and Dudley's brigade of Lee's cavalry corps, and Dick Taylor's army, estimated at 12,000 strong, posted in an advantageous position. The fight lasted about three hours.

Our loss is reported at eighteen killed and about sixty wounded. That of the rebels was much greater, some placing it at two hundred killed and wounded.

We captured five hundred prisoners, and others are still being brought in.

Dudley's brigade in the advance, greatly distinguished themselves.

Our troops did not halt on the battle ground, but pushed on in pursuit of the retreating foe. No rest would be given the rebels.

It was General Smith's design to force the enemy to make a stand, and defeat them in a pitched battle, if possible.

A considerable number of deserters have entered our lines.

Nine hundred contrabands, men women and children, had arrived from Alexandria.

The steamer La Crosse was captured and burned by guerillas on the 25th ult. below Alexandria, and her crew were released on parole; but their officers were not released.

The same band fired into the Mattie Stevens on the night of the 30th. No injury was reported.

A large number of Mississippi refugees are gathering within our lines at Fort Pike and vicinity. Seven hundred, in one lot, are reported to be leaving rebeldom.

Sales of cotton in New Orleans on the 1st inst. 490 bales. Ordinary, 56 a 58c.; low middling, 68 a 69.; middling, 70c. Sugar, new crop, 15¾ a 17½c.

NEWS FROM THE SOUTHWEST.

Fight Between Union Gunboats and Guerillas at Hickman, Ky., &c.

CAIRO, April 6, 1864.

The gunboats had a fight with guerillas at Hickman yesterday, and captured a few of them.

The small propeller Golden Gate was burned by guerillas on the 2d inst., sixteen miles below Memphis.

It is reported that the rebel General McCrea hung a number of robbers and murderers who infested his neighborhood and robbed friend and foe alike.

Memphis cotton market less active. Receipts light. Shipments since last report six hundred bales. Shipments for the quarter ending March 31, thirty-seven thousand nine hundred and thirty seven bales. The steamer Liberty took two hundred and thirty-five bales in her to-day for Cincinnati.

During the past sixty days the steamer Holliday, for Cairo, shipped two thousand six hundred bales of cotton out of the Tennessee river for Evansville, thence going East, on which the government tax amounted to forty thousand dollars.

The steamer Joe Jayes, bound down, loaded mostly with flour, collided last night with the steamer General Anderson below Metropolis, the Jacobs breaking into her. No lives were lost.

The steamer Forsythe, after leaving this port yesterday was brought back by a shot from the fort. Her officers are charged with having contraband goods on board. The boat is under a guard, the captain under arrest and the clerk in the guard house.

Rebel Accounts of the Fight at Paducah—Buford's Address to His Troops—Western Kentucky to be Held by the Rebels, &c.

CAIRO, April 7, 1864.

The Cairo *News* has been furnished with an order, issued by General Buford, commanding the Second division of Forrest's cavalry, congratulating the troops on the success of their Kentucky campaign. He praises their conduct during the attack on the fort at Paducah, and alludes feelingly to the loss of Colonel Thompson, commanding the Third brigade. He asserts that they silenced the guns of the fort and compelled one of the gunboats to withdraw from action. The rebel loss is set down at fifty killed and forty wounded, and the Union loss at twenty-seven killed and seventy or eighty wounded. He concludes by informing the division of his intention to hold Western Kentucky.

The actual loss of the Union forces was fourteen killed and forty-two wounded. Rebel prisoners admit a loss of three hundred killed and three times as many wounded.

The latest Memphis advices report nothing later from Forrest or Grierson. It was rumored that the former was preparing to attack Memphis.

Confiscated goods to the amount of $49,000, consisting mostly of cotton and sugar, were sold here to-day by order of the United States District Court. Eighteen hundred bales