RECONSTRUCTION IN NORTH CAROLINA.

UNION MEETING IN RALEIGH.

The Rebel Secretary of State of North Carolina Called to the Chair.

Speeches of J. P. H. Russ, C. R. Thomas and W. W. Holden.

TREASON IS A CRIME.

THE QUESTION OF FREE SUFFRAGE.

Petition from the Negroes to President Johnson,

&c., &c., &c.

Mr. James C. Fitzpatrick's Despatch.

RALEIGH, N. C., May 11, 1865.

A meeting of the citizens of Wake county was held to-day at the Capitol. Its object was to give expression to the popular sentiment regarding the restoration of the State to the Union. The time appointed for the meeting was twelve o'clock, but it was one o'clock before the proceedings commenced. At that time the gathering was not large, but before long it swelled to several hundreds. The speakers' stand was erected in the southwestern angle of the Capitol square, facing the statue of Washington, which was still shrouded in mourning for the death of President Lincoln. The bell which called the people together was the same which assembled the convention in 1861 when the ordinance of secession was passed. A noticeable feature in the meeting was the presence of several rebel soldiers wearing the rebel uniform.

The band of Colonel Granger's brigade was in attendance, and interspersed the proceedings with music.

Among those occupying seats on the platform were Messrs. B. F. Moore, Haines, A. M. Page, H. O. Baker, Albert Johnson, Reynolds, J. R. Harrison, C. M. Ferris and Royster. The last mentioned gentleman is in his eighty-seventh year, but the infirmity of old age could not prevent him from participating in the meeting. The Mayor of the city, Mr. Harrison, was unable, on account of sickness, to be present.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Richardson, of the *Progress*, and Mr. J. P. H. Russ was called to preside.

Mr. Russ, who was Secretary of State during the first administration of Vance, on taking the chair, said he was glad to meet his friends, and congratulated them on the favorable auspices under which they met. They had not been allowed to do so during the past four years; confederate bayonets had prevented them. He had been an uncompromising conservative—a Union man when it cost life to be so; and he thanked God they were relieved of the tyranny to which they were so long accustomed. The glorious old flag had returned to North Carolina never to depart. He charged the secessionists with destroying our peace and liberty. Their doctrines were never of the people. The people had been duped by political parties, and had oftentimes acted with them without regard to right or wrong. The responsibility for all this bloodshed must rest somewhere. It lay with the leaders and their wicked ambition. He believed from the commencement that the inauguration of war would destroy slavery, and it had done so. He gave up his negroes, not because he believed it was wrong to hold them—as he came honestly by them—but to get rid of the tyranny which slavery as an institution imposed. Andrew Johnson was right in not wishing to punish the masses. The leaders alone were responsible. Treason is a crime, and ought to be punished. In conclusion he appointed the following gentlemen a committee on resolutions:—C. R. Thomas, W. R. Richardson, W. D. Jones, R. C. Badger, W. J. Holleman, Calvin J. Rogers, J. J. Ferrell.

The committee retired to one of the rooms in the Capitol, and, after a short deliberation, returned and submitted a series of resolutions.

Mr. C. R. Thomas, Secretary of State of the late State government of North Carolina, and the chairman of the committee, after presenting the resolutions, seconded them in a very appropriate speech. He was glad to meet the people after four long years of doubts and fears. His last public speech before the 20th of May, 1861, was for the Union and the preservation of the States. He protested against secession. No division of the people North and South ever could have taken place with his consent. He could not forget that northern and southern blood flowed in the veins of his children. The first resolution expressed gratification at the close of the rebellion. He thought the important one of the series. He would ask were they fully prepared to subscribe to it? Were they glad again to enjoy peace and liberty under the Union and constitution? Peace was now supreme! He would not point out his fellowcitizens for punishment. He had no enemies. He forgot and forgave all. Still, the prime leaders, who had preyed on the passions and affections of the people of the South, could not be forgotten or forgiven. All these men should now stand aside. They should be kept from the councils of the people. The voices of the thousands slain in the war cried from their graves against them. The next resolution spoke of allegiance to the Union. He wished to say a word on the subject of allegiance. The word had misled people. It had been misunderstood. Now and henceforth it was to apply to the United States government. It was the doctrine of Webster and Clay. He had taken an oath to the Confederate States. He was asked would he now swear to support the United States? His answer was that long ago he had taken that oath, when he swore to be faithful to North Carolina as a member of the United States so far as she was not in conflict with the general government. The benefit of his oath had now returned to him. His oath to support the Confederate States was given as a State officer and to assure his fealty to his State. He was desirous that the military would remain until the civil government was established. There was no necessity for referring to the resolution regarding the death of President Lincoln, for it was on the tongues and in the hearts of all the people. They had expressed their grief. Silence was the best speech on so sad a topic. He advocated the movement which looked to the election of Mr. Holden to the gubernatorial chair. In conclusion, he called upon his hearers to make fresh resolutions that the government, now chastened by the ordeal of war, should resume its onward career to an extended Christianity and civilization, and that the question which had so long disturbed society, church and State should receive its quietus. Let it be resolved by the people of North Carolina, at their first meeting, that human slavery shall not exist on their soil. He prayed that the government would continue to dispense its blessings of peace and liberty to millions and to generations of millions yet unborn.

Mr. Russ again read the resolutions, which were then unanimously adopted by the meeting.

Mr. W. W. Holden was then introduced and spoke as follows:

SPEECH OF MR. W. W. HOLDEN.

Fellow citizens of the county of Wake—fellow citizens of North Carolina, and fellow citizens of the United States of America—Let us rejoice at what we behold this day. Once more we see the folds of the old flag, and it waves above us from our Capitol; we hear the national airs; we meet and greet each other; we feel in our lungs that liberty, independence and peace are with us again, never more to depart. "Glory to God on high and peace and good will to men." That heavenly peace is all around us to-day, and be it remembered that to the conservative party of the Southern States, and to the millions of patriots of the North we owe this peace. Let the old North State rejoice that she is in the great American Union to-day, and in a condition again to become a full member of the charmed circle. But our cup of happiness is not unmingled with sorrow and gloom. Not only here has the ploughshare of war left its furrows of desolation, but the habiliments of woe are to be found in almost every house throughout the country. Who is responsible for this war, ruin and devastation—this unhappy severance of a brotherhood springing from Washington himself? The answer is easy. Bad men, ambitious men, bad-hearted men, who fomented the work of discord, and who, in the pursuit of their ambition, first severed the old national whig party, then the national democratic party. These are the men whom we have the right to hold responsible. Five years ago the people were contented, prosperous and happy. The national name and flag were everywhere respected and our government was the most esteemed on earth. I happened to have the honor of a seat in the Charleston Convention. I was not there one day before I saw it was the fixed intention of the secessionists to break up the government. I congratulate myself that I was among their opponents. By violence, by fraud, by "firing the southern heart," they, alas, succeeded. The resolutions just adopted give but a birdseye view of the atrocities committed on the people of the South. From State rights we passed to the most ultra consolidation, while the habeas corpus was suppressed. At that day our people were devoted to slavery, though divided about its introduction into the Territories. Its continuance, the traitors promised, was involved in the war. The result, on the contrary, has been that the institution has been everywhere extinguished. It has gone, beyond redemption or resurrection. I acquiesce most cheerfully in the decision. I would not, if I could, revive it. They promised us also that the contest would be a common one; that no partisan feeling was longer to exist. But from the outset in all the States, and particularly in North Carolina, no man was deemed fit for public position unless he belonged to the original secession school. All who had been marked as Union men were proscribed. They might well have suspected our fidelity. They denied us participation in the common government. They had Confederate officers, bayonets and bloodhounds to hunt down Union men and put them in the front ranks of battle while they themselves skulked into civil offices to escape the conflict they had brought on. Whom did they call to preside over the confederacy? Jefferson Davis. And who in the name of God was Jefferson Davis? I remember that man twenty years ago, when he made a speech in Mississippi against paying the honest debt of his State, due across the water. He has been a repudiator of all honesty and integrity ever since. What is he now? What has he not done to cripple and crush the liberties of the people of the South? What has he not done to gratify his wicked and insane—no, not insane, he is not the least insane, he is devilish—ambition for power? Up to the last moment he cried war and demanded more blood. When that conference took place at Hampton Roads he well knew the hopelessness of his cause; but he was only waiting to perfect his plans for carrying off the gold and silver of his treasury. First, a repudiator; second, a fomenter of discord; third, a secessionist and traitor; fourth, a tyrant; fifth, a flying robber; sixth, charged by Andrew Johnson—and truly I think—with complicity in that foulest deed: the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Such is the record of Jefferson Davis; but he was only the sun around which lesser systems and satellites revolved. They acted under and obeyed him, and are equally guilty with him. I cherish no disposition personally to harm him. I have no malice against any one; but I do cherish the strongest political repugnance to the man who involved this country in war, and continued that war to the desolation of the country. I believe with Andrew Johnson that while the masses should be treated leniently, the leaders and those who have been active war men should be held to as strict and condign punishment as comes within the powers of the courts at Washington. We owe it to coming generations. "Treason must be made odious" to all coming times. In 1860, from the moment the contest commenced, I watched and waited for the purpose of preserving the Union. I acquiesced in the act of separation as all were compelled to do. Under the circumstances any escape was physically and morally impossible. As a delegate I, in 1861, signed the ordinance of attempted separation in that very hall (pointing to the Capitol). I did it with a sad and stricken spirit—with feelings I cannot now describe. Those feelings were shared by all the conservatives. All might see in our countenances the difference between secessionists and conservatives. On the passage of the act they tossed their hats, tolled the bells and fired cannon to express their joy; but we moved about with heavy hearts and minds oppressed with fear, doubt and gloom. But time, which settles all things, has settled between us. One of the results of the war was the extinction of African slavery. Regrets are vain for what is past. It remains for the people of this State, both in convention and in the Legislature, to define the *status* and condition of this emancipated race. I have no apprehension on the subject. There are wisdom and foresight enough in the country to dispose of the question. I am willing and anxious, now that the war has stricken the shackels from the slave, that the alphabet, the schoolbook and the Bible be placed in his hand. I am ready to recognize his married relations; I desire to lift up the race and inspire it with a sense of well regulated freedom. I would give the negro all his rights as a freeman—to read his Bible and hold property; but beyond that I leave him to the future action of the States themselves. This emancipated race must have, to a large extent, the sympathy, aid and support of the white race, else it will be extinguished. I am ready to extend all this sympathy, aid and support. Twenty years ago Mr. Clay and other statesmen protected and advocated a system of colonization, and their views are entitled to the gravest consideration at this crisis. The whole vast continent is destined to fall under the control of the Anglo-Saxon race—the governing and self-governing race. I look to the wisdom of the people in convention to decide the relations of the two races. As to the people of North Carolina, we are financially ruined. We owed seven millions of dollars before the war, and we have contracted forty millions of dollars since. I believe that all our banks will be compelled to fail if payment of specie is demanded. By death, wounds and sickness we have lost during the war fifty thousand men. A large portion of the State has been devastated by the contending armies. Under these circumstances we require great steadiness of purpose, industry, confident hearts and hope, to meet the future as it should be met. So far as the old government is concerned all favors will be granted us. The first duty we owe in our new condition is to make provision for the public debt, so as to re-establish our State credit and maintain our old reputation; also to make provision to enable the people to resume industrial pursuits. Taking the experience of the past to guide us we will know what to do. New York and North Carolina were in 1808 on the same footing as to population and in other respects. The difference in their wealth, prosperity and population to-day is due to the retarding influences of African slavery. We are now relieved of this incubus on the interests of the State. I would say to our brethren of the North: come among us with your energy, muscle, capital, industry and intelligence. Settle here. You can now purchase and build, plant and reap, live and die with the assurance that your possessions will descend to your children, for henceforward the stars on our flag will never go out nor the sun of American liberty ever go down. In conclusion, he reiterated the impassioned wish of Webster:—"When my eyes shall be turned to behold for the last time the sun in heaven, may they not see him shining on the broken and dishonored fragments of a once glorious Union; on States dissevered, discordant, belligerent; on a land rent by civil feuds and drenched, it may be, in fraternal blood. Rather let my last glance go out on that gorgeous ensign of the republic, now known and honored throughout the earth, still full high advanced; its arms and trophies streaming in all their original lustre, not a stripe erased or polluted, nor one single star obscured, bearing for its motto no such miserable interrogatory as 'What is all this worth?' nor those other words of delusion and folly, 'Liberty first, and Union afterward,' but everywhere spread all over in characters of living light, blazing on all its ample folds, as they float over the land and over the sea, and in every wind under the whole heaven, that other sentiment dear to every true American heart, 'Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable.'"

The address was listened to with the utmost attention, and its sentiments were frequently and loudly applauded.

Letters from Mr. John Pool, of Pasquotank, and Mr. T. R. Caldwell, of Burke, were then read.

Patriotic and thoroughly Union speeches were delivered by Colonel Granger, commandant of the post, and Messrs. B. F. Moore, L. C. Edwards, Neill McKay, W. D. Jones, Senator from Wake; C. J. Rogers, member of the House of Commons; Lewis Hanes. The meeting concluded about five P. M., having been four hours assembled.

THE ILLUMINATION.

At night the city was illuminated, while rockets were discharged from the dome of the Capitol. Nearly every house exhibited burning candles, while a great many had in addition Union mottoes and sentiments. At nine o'clock a procession of citizens was formed and marched to the residence of Mr. Holden, who made them a speech. A thunder shower, which came up soon after, interfered with the proposed torchlight display.

Petition of North Carolina Negroes to President Johnson.

NEWBERN, May 10, 1865.

For the purpose of encouraging emigration to the South and restoring the lost dignity to labor, which has been the chief obstacle in the way, and for other reasons, the following important petition is being extensively circulated in this State:—

To His Excellency ANDREW JOHNSON, President of the United States:—

We, the undersigned, your petitioners, are colored men of the State of North Carolina, of the age of twenty-one years and upwards; and we humbly come to you with our request, and yet in great confidence, because you are occupying a place so recently filled by a man who had proved himself indeed our friend, and it must be that some of his great and good spirit lingers to bless his successor; and then we are assured that you are a man who gives kind attention to all petitioners, and never turns a deaf ear to any one because he may be in poor or humble circumstances. In many respects we are poor and greatly despised by our fellow men; but we are rich in the possession of the liberty brought us and our wives and our little ones by your noble predecessor, secured to us by the armies of the United States and promised to be permanent by that victorious flag which now flies in triumph in every State of the Union. We accept this great boon of freedom with truly thankful hearts, and shall try by our lives to prove our worthiness. We always loved the old flag, and we have stood by it, and tried to help those who upheld it through all this rebellion; and now that it has brought us liberty, we love it more than ever, and in all future time we and our sons will be ready to defend it by our blood; and we may be permitted to say that such blood as that shed at Fort Wagner and Port Hudson is not altogether unworthy of such service. Some of us are soldiers, and have had the privilege of fighting for our country in this war. Since we have become freemen, and been permitted the honor of being soldiers, we begin to feel that we are men, and are anxious to show our countrymen that we can and will fit ourselves for the creditable discharge of the duties of citizenship. We want the privilege of voting. It seems to us that men who are willing on the field of danger to carry the muskets of republics, in the days of peace ought to be permitted to carry its ballots; and certainly we cannot understand the justice of denying the elective franchise to men who have been fighting for the country, while it is freely given to men who have just returned from four years fighting against it. As you were once a citizen of North Carolina, we need not remind you that up to the year 1835 free colored men voted in this State, and never, as we have heard, with any detriment to its interests. What we desire is that, preliminary to elections in the returning States, you would order the enrolment of all loyal men, without regard to color. But the whole question we humbly submit to your better judgment—and we submit it with full belief in your impartial integrity, and in the fond hope that the mantle of our murdered friend and father may have fallen upon your shoulders. May God bless and ever protect you and our beloved country from all assassins shall be the constant prayer of your faithful friends and humble petitioners.

The Price of Meat.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

NEW MOUNT PLEASANT, May 13, 1865.

My attention was called to an article in your paper of the 11th inst., complaining that provisions did not come down with gold. Now you must be mistaken, or the commission merchants must be a bad set of fellows. About two weeks since I sent a calf to New York, four weeks old, not large, but fat, and I only got sixty-nine cents for it. I concluded that veal had come down faster than gold. If every person feels as I do, New Yorkers will do without veal for all time to come.

POCONO.

Brooklyn City News.

A LADIES' FAIR will commence on Monday next, in aid of the Sisters of the Poor, corner of Congress and Hicks streets, Brooklyn. The Sisters are entirely devoted to the wants and relief of the sick and poor, who are carefully nursed and have the best medical assistance. The house at present contains upwards of one hundred inmates, and regular meals are daily distributed to nearly one hundred more, many of whom are relieved at their own houses. The charity is one of the most meritorious in the country, and it is deserving of public support.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT FROM PANAMA.

Treaty Between the United States Government and Colombia.

NAPOLEON CHECKMATED,

&c., &c., &c.

Our Panama Correspondence.

PANAMA, May 5, 1865.

I have recent and reliable intelligence received from Bogota, which says that a most important treaty has just been negotiated with the government of Colombia, which, while it will very materially affect American interests most favorably, will be a great blow to the governments of Europe. You are already aware that the Colombian government, to which the Isthmus of Panama belongs, has renewed the charter of the Panama Railroad Company. The negotiations for the renewal of the charter were so adroitly conducted by American agents in Bogota, that the government of Colombia has granted to the United States government in perpetuity the exclusive privilege of transporting military and naval stores over the road. England, France and Spain are completely shut out, except, of course, in a commercial way. The United States government alone has the right to use it as a military road. What the effect of this news will be in Europe can be readily imagined. The Colombian government accepts as an equivalent for these privileges our guarantee of its sovereignty over the Isthmus, and the security of the Transit route against all foreign Powers.

The Cuban Authorities and the Ram Stonewall.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

NEW YORK, May 18, 1865.

The news from Havana in this morning's paper is not of a nature to impress one favorably with Captain General Dulce's idea of neutrality. Had her Catholic Majesty's officials been in the least well disposed towards the United States the ram Stonewall would not have been permitted to leave the port of Havana. If our government in retaliation were to suspend for a time our neutrality laws as far as Spain is concerned, such a course would be likely to bring to their senses the authorities of that ever faithful island, and would be of immense advantage to a large number of Cuban patriots who devote their lives to the sole duty of delivering their native country of a foreign despotism. LIBERTAD.

The French Mission.

[Editorial Correspondence of the Milwaukee Daily Wisconsin.]

NEW YORK, May 9, 1865.

It is well known that after the death of Mr. Dayton there were conflicting reports as to the person to whom the important mission to France was tendered. Among these it was stated that it was offered to James Gordon Bennett, of the HERALD, and that he declined it. There were many who doubted that such an offer had ever been made, and further, they would not believe that Mr. Bennett would decline so important a mission. Nevertheless, both of these statements are facts. Mr. Bennett was tendered the French mission in February, and he at once declined it, on the ground that, at his time of life, he did not desire to embark in any new enterprises, and that he could serve his country better as editorial manager of the HERALD than as envoy to France.

I have called upon Mr. Bennett since I have been in the city, and, fortunately, had an interview with him. He does not hesitate to speak of the French mission. He says that the President, in an autograph letter, tendered it to him in the most generous and friendly manner. Mr. Bennett was naturally gratified at this mark of confidence, inasmuch as he had never met Mr. Lincoln. Mrs. Lincoln had frequently staid at his house, but he had never met the President. Some copperhead editors have scoffed so much at the suggestion that the important embassy to France was tendered to Mr. Bennett, that he intimates, for the sake of historical truth, he shall ultimately be compelled to publish the correspondence between the President and himself.

So far from evincing any jealousy or regret, journalists should feel a professional pride that the President of the United States tendered one of the first offices within his gift to the proprietor of a leading journal. It is an acknowledgment of the power and influence of the press which it justly merits. The loyal press of the North has performed not less service than the army in saving the republic. In truth the healthy public sentiment which it has created at home was the only mode to recruit and invigorate the armies; and President Lincoln wisely and frequently showed his appreciation of that vast service; and in the tender of the French mission he desired to show to independent editors that they were not overlooked by the head of the nation when they were using the artillery of type to fight the battles of our cause.

Mr. Bennett's appreciation of Grant's inestimable service was apparent in his first remark, when he pithily and sententiously uttered, "Grant has done it!" President Johnson is receiving a vigorous and earnest support from the HERALD; and the loyal men at the North are now more perfectly united on President Johnson than they were on President Lincoln.

The Secret of General Butler's Removal.

[From the New York Ledger.]

Many people suppose that the removal of General Butler was caused by his failure to take Fort Fisher. That is not so. The true reason is this: when General Butler was in command in this city, previous to the last presidential election, a certain article appeared in the NEW YORK HERALD, which the General did not like. As soon as he read it, he at once despatched one of his aids to the HERALD office, to summon the managing editor (Mr. Hudson) to appear at his headquarters. Mr. Hudson obeyed the summons; and on appearing before the high military official he was informed that the HERALD must retract the offensive article, or he (General Butler) would suppress the paper. General Butler was not aware when he made this threat that the relations of Mr. Bennett, the responsible editor of the HERALD, with the administration, were of a very friendly and confidential character, and, therefore, in making this exhibition of his "brief authority," he "put his foot in it." Mr. Bennett, of course, never forgave him; but, on the contrary, managed to have him removed just as soon as the General's superiors could assign a reason that would seemingly justify his decapitation. General Butler is himself aware of this now, although he did not know the secret of his removal at the time it took place. The offer of the French Mission by our late President to James Gordon Bennett and the endorsement of the offer by Horace Greeley must have opened General Butler's eyes. He will probably let the newspapers alone hereafter.

The Result of a Recommendation.

SUPERIOR COURT—TRIAL TERM.

Before Judge Monell.

MAY 18.—*Morits Von Bruck and others vs. Frederick M. Peyser.*—The defendant in this case, on the 1st of February, 1858, wrote to the plaintiffs, residing in Europe, the following letter from New York:—

I hereby respectfully advise you that I have this day made over my business, with debits and credits, to my brother-in-law and assistant for many years, Mr. Emil Kanter, who will continue the same with undiminished means, under the firm of "Emil Kanter, successor to Fred. M. Peyser." In giving you my best thanks for the confidence reposed in me hitherto, I beg that you will extend the same also to my successor. Respectfully and humbly, FRED. M. PEYSER.

The plantiffs, relying on this recommendation sold to Kanter merchandise from 1858 to 1860 on credit. Kanter paid for the goods first received by him, but ceased to pay in 1860, and the plantiff sued Peyser for the balance, on the ground that the representations of the above letter were false and fraudulent, and known to be so by the defendant—Peyser having sold the business referred to in the letter entirely on credit; and in 1861, when Kanter failed, he (Peyser) appropriated the business to himself.

On the first trial, before a judge and jury, the judge dismissed the complaint, for the reason that Kanter might have become insolvent without any fault of Peyser.

The plaintiffs appealed from the judgment, and the General Term reversed the decision and ordered a new trial.

The new trial was had yesterday, before Judge Monell and a jury, who rendered a verdict for the plaintiffs for $3,551, being the full amount claimed.

For plaintiffs, Charles Wehle, T. Darlington and A. Vanderpoel. For defendant, Miller & Stoutenburgh, W. H. Peckham and Charles Tracy.

On motion of Mr. Wehle, the Court granted the plaintiffs an extra allowance for costs of $150.

Letter from Henry Lee.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

In your edition of 17th April last appeared a report of an affair that occurred at the Pewter Mug the night previous (Easter Sunday), in which I was a sufferer. The paragraph alluded to stated that I, in the presence of several individuals, made seditious remarks; that I expressed gratification at hearing of the assassination of our late lamented President, and was struck in the head with a bottle by a bystander, and that I "was served perfectly right." I knew nothing of your report till a day or two ago, having been taken to the New York Hospital in an insensible condition the night the affair occurred, and have but just recovered from the effects of the dastardly blow inflicted most wantonly on me at the time mentioned.

I wish to contradict the calumnious assertion that I expressed gratification at the infamous and cowardly assassination of Mr. Lincoln. On the contrary, at the very moment before I was struck I made the remark that the man who murdered Mr. Lincoln was a coward and an infernal villain.

My sentiments are well enough known among my friends and acquaintances. I have served two years in the Union army, and any such charge as was made in your report of the affair at the Pewter Mug against me is false and absurd.

My friends would have contradicted your report before now had I been in a condition to have given them the full particulars.

You will, of course, publish this refutation of what I can prove to be a base lie, manufactured out of whole cloth by the individual who assaulted me on the occasion referred to, and much oblige your most obedient servant, HENRY LEE, Astor House.

New York, May 18, 1865.

Important to Shoddy Importers.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT.

Before Judge Benedict.

MAY 18.—*The United States vs. Twenty Bales of Wool.*—This case has been before Judge Benedict and a jury for several days past. From the evidence it appeared that the wool was shipped from Liverpool by Ralte, Barath & Co. to Ralle and Co. of this city, partners of the Liverpool house. The merchandise was invoiced as "Bromley wool," but which, it was asserted, was an article generally known as "shoddy" in merchandise, was entered at the Custom House here as "wool," not as shoddy or "Bromley wool." The duty on wool was five per cent, duty on shoddy twenty per cent ad valorem. On the question of the quality of the article a good deal of evidence was taken, the jury ultimately finding it was shoddy. Some important legal questions arose in the case, one being whether the proviso of section 67 of the act of 1799 was in force, and another whether the question of intent was to be passed upon by the Court or jury.

The Court decided that the proviso was in force, and that the claimants could show that the entry at the Custom House was made by mistake or accident, and not to defraud the government, leaving, however, the question of intent to the jury. The jury found a verdict for the government. Messrs. S. G. Courtney and Ethan Allan appeared for the United States; Messrs. Webster and Crary for the defendants.

City Intelligence.

THAT TAX LEVY.—Notwithstanding the reports prevailing to the contrary, the Mayor has signed the ordinance passed by the Common Council on Monday, and the Comptroller's Department has since been very busy in drawing the warrants for the signatures of the Comptroller and Clerk of the Council. This state of activity bids fair to last for some time, as the claims are numerous. There is some dissatisfaction, of course, on the part of those whose demands were stricken out by the Common Council.

INCREASE OF SALARIES ASKED.—Mr. John Murphy, the present Receiver of Taxes, has lately asked an increase of salary for the officials of his department. The rates he desires to be established by the Board of Supervisors are as follows:—Receiver, from four to five thousand dollars per annum; deputy, from two thousand five hundred to four thousand; first clerk, from two thousand to three thousand; clerk to deputy receiver, from one thousand two hundred to two thousand five hundred; second clerk, from one thousand two hundred to two thousand five hundred; third, fourth, fifth and sixth clerks, from one thousand two hundred to two thousand; messenger and assistant messengers, from nine hundred and one thousand to one thousand two hundred, and the lesser officers in proportion.

THE JOHNSON UNION ASSOCIATION.—This is the name of a new political organization which was formed in the city on Wednesday evening, and of which Mr. Moses H. Grinnell was chosen the first presiding officer. The association is composed of some of the leading men in commercial circles, bankers and others. A mass meeting is proposed to be held in the course of a few days, of which due notice will be given. A series of resolutions adopted by the society fully endorse the declaration of President Johnson that "Treason is a high crime, and must be punished." The new organization proposes to stand by and co-operate with the President in carrying out his proposition.

THE HORSE AND CARRIAGE FOR PRESIDENT JOHNSON.—The horse, carriage and trappings purchased by a number of our most wealthy and influential citizens as a present for President Johnson were yesterday forwarded to Washington by the Camden and Amboy Railroad. They are all of the finest pattern and most costly make, forming altogether a gift not unworthy the acceptance of the first citizen of the nation.

THE MASONIC TESTIMONIAL TO DR. MACKEY.—The Masonic testimonial to Dr. Mackey, of Charleston, S. C., will take place at the Academy of Music, on next Saturday evening, and is to be a most interesting affair. Grand Master Paige will preside, and the exercises will consist of a poem by A. J. H. Duganne, a welcoming address by Mr. Paige, and a choice selection of vocal and instrumental music.

TESTIMONIAL OF ESTEEM.—The friends and co-laborers of Mr. Aseph S. Hope, for many years connected with the delivery department of the NEW YORK HERALD, assembled last night in large numbers at the Metropolitan Hotel, Broadway, the occasion being the presentation of a testimonial to Mr. Hope on his retirement from the position he so long filled. After the usual forms the presentation was made—Mr. C. S. Shanahan, by request, prefacing it with a few general remarks. The testimonial itself is a splendid triumph of artistic skill, consisting of several resolutions, written in the highest style of chirography, and surrounded by a chaste and elegant border of ivy and grape. In the centre is the portrait of the recipient. A more unique and pleasing tribute we have rarely seen. Afterwards the company adjourned to a splendid collation, where wine, wit and merriment prevailed until the evening was far advanced.

Police Intelligence.

IMPORTANT ARREST OF AN ALLEGED BANK ROBBER—STOLEN BONDS, BURGLARIOUS IMPLEMENTS, ETC., RECOVERED.

During the latter part of November last the Walpole Savings Bank, of Walpole, N. H., was entered by burglars and robbed of money, bonds and stocks to the amount of $46,000. The dwelling of the cashier of the Walpole Bank had been previously broken open, and the safe key, which was in his pantaloons pocket, abstracted. The key once in their possession, the burglars found no difficulty in entering the safe and abstracting the contents. Information of the robbery was telegraphed over the country, and particulars were lodged with Chief Young, of our detective force, who detached detectives Golden, Kelso and Radford to give the matter their especial attention. The fact that a reward of $1,000 had been offered by the bank authorities for the arrest and conviction of the thieves was an additional incentive for the detectives to exert themselves in the matter. Information was recently received by the detectives which led them to suspect that Max Sinborn, a noted German burglar, was one of the Walpole Bank robbers. Learning that this man was living in luxurious style on his farm, near Saratoga Springs, the detectives proceeded thither and arrested him. On making a search they found there $1,000 bonds of the Walpole Bank and a quantity of coupons cut from bonds stolen from the safe were found on his person. Sinborn's residence was then searched by the detectives, who found a complete set of burglar's tools, various wax impressions of safe and other locks, numerous bank and skeleton keys partially finished, besides many other articles which might be made useful in prosecuting his nefarious calling. The prisoner was yesterday brought to this city by the detectives, who took him back to New Hampshire to await his trial. No others engaged in the bank robbery have been arrested. Other Eastern banks have been forced open and robbed, and it is believed that Sinborn also took a leading part in that business.

ROBBING HIS BEDFELLOW.

A day or two since James McDermott, of No. 22 Duane street, formed the acquaintance of a very genteel appearing young man known as George Morton alias John King, and in the course of a few hours they became unusually intimate and friendly. At night they took a room at Crook's Hotel, Chatham street, both sleeping in the same bed. About three o'clock the following morning King arose without awaking his companion, and, securing his (McDermott's) gold watch, gold ring, set with garnets, gems and emerald's; a gold medal, together with the clothes he had worn the day previously, &c., valued in all at six hundred and five dollars, left the house unobserved. At a later hour McDermott, learning that he had been robbed of his clothing and such valuables as he had with him, complained to Captain Jourdan, of the Sixth precinct. Officers Wooldridge and Phelan took the matter in charge, and yesterday succeeded in arresting King, but they found none of the stolen property in his possession. King, however, confessed to the theft, and it is thought nearly all of the stolen goods will be recovered. The prisoner was taken before Justice Hogan and committed to the Tombs for trial in default of bail.

A RAID ON THE CYPRIANS.

At a late hour on Wednesday night Captain Mills, of the Eighth precinct, with a platoon of his officers, made a raid on the brazen-faced Cyprians who are nightly walking the streets of his precinct, to the great annoyance of the respectable residents of that portion of the city. These shameless females make it a point to salute almost every gentleman they meet, and it not unfrequently occurs that Capt. Mills and his officers, while in citizens' dress and not recognized, are seized by these street walkers and invited to take a walk with them. In case of a refusal to comply with their wishes the officers, as well as citizens, receive the most vile abuse. Captain Mills determined that this state of things should cease, and accordingly despatched his officers through Broadway, Wooster, Greene, Mercer and other streets of the precinct, with instructions to arrest all offenders of the class mentioned above. In a short space of time nearly sixty females were apprehended and lodged in the station house. They were subsequently arraigned before Justice Dodge and committed for examination.

BOLD THEFT OF WATCHES—CAUGHT IN THE ACT.

Early on Wednesday evening a stranger boldly entered the watchmaker's shop of Henry Cross, 160 Thompson street, and took from a rack six silver watches which had been left there for repairs. The man attempted to escape with his booty, but Mr. Cross turned the key of the door and locked him in. He then seized the bold offender and held him till officer Christie, of the Eighth precinct, came and took charge of the prisoner, who gave his name as John Cecil. After lodging in the station house over night he was taken before Justice Dodge and committed for trial.

PASSING COUNTERFEIT MONEY.

Thomas Shaddock, a Canadian, twenty four years of age, was arrested by officer Irving, of the Twentieth precinct, charged with having passed a counterfeit two dollar bill on the Bank of Glens Falls, this State, on Michael Stevens, bartender in the public house 358 Eighth avenue, in payment for a glass of brandy. It appears that officer Irving had been watching the accused and followed him into the Eighth avenue drinking place, and learning that he had offered one of the spurious bills took him to the station house. The counterfeit is a new one and is executed so skilfully that even good judges of money may be deceived by it. Justice Dodge committed Shaddock for trial.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT CONTROVERSY.

Argument on the Constitutionality of the Law.

SUPREME COURT—GENERAL TERM.

Before Judges Ingraham, Barnard and Wells.

MAY 18.—*The People vs. Charles C. Pinckney and others.* The argument on the constitutionality of the Metropolitan Fire Department law took place to-day in the presence of a large and highly appreciative audience. John Cochrane, the Attorney General, appeared for the people, and ex-Judge Allen for the defendants.

POINTS FOR THE PEOPLE.

The counsel for the people took the ground that the bill was not a Metropolitan bill in effect, it being limited territorially to the city of New York, and the defendants being, therefore, officers of the city of New York, should either have been elected by its constituency, or appointed by some other authority than the Governor and the Senate. He quoted the constitution of 1846, article ten, section two, in support of his argument, and held that the Metropolitan bill was unconstitutional in all its parts, and the law under which the defendants claim to be Metropolitan Fire Commissioners was void and of no effect for the following reasons:—

First—The offices of the Metropolitan Fire Department named in the law of 1865 are the same offices which existed in the city of New York before the adoption of the present State constitution.

Second—The Metropolitan Fire Department named in the act of 1865 is, by the terms of the act, constituted and formed of and by the Metropolitan Fire Department Commissioners, therein also named, and both the department and the commissioners are expressly limited, territorially, to the city of New York.

Third—Section two authorizes the "Metropolitan Fire Commissioners" to take and have, as provided by this act, control and management of all officers, men, property, measures and action for the extinguishment of fires within the said district; to be (the commissioners) organized as herein provided, and to be (the commissioners) as the Metropolitan Fire Department. Section four confers upon them, in addition to the powers of the existing Fire Department of the city and its officers, "such other powers and duties in said district as are hereinafter conferred." The sequel of the act shows that the control and management of officers, men, property, measures and action mentioned in section two are confined and limited to New York city, and that all other powers are carefully limited within the same bounds, while some of the duties imposed upon them by the same section are with respect to other parts of the district. Thus, while the Metropolitan Fire Commissioners have both powers conferred and duties imposed upon them within the city of New York (see section five and sequel of the act), they have no powers conferred, but simply certain duties to be observed with respect to that part of the Metropolitan Fire District comprehended in Brooklyn.

Fourth—Having shown that the act does not provide for any power of the Commissioners over Brooklyn, and for no other power than the power and authority held by the present Fire Department of New York, neither the second nor the fourth section of the act includes Brooklyn or bestows more power. But section five of the act provides, in terms, "That the Metropolitan Fire Department is to possess exclusively all the powers and perform all the duties for the government, maintenance and direction of the Fire Department of the city of New York, and the premises and property thereof, which were at the time of its organization by the present Fire Department of the city." This section therefore embraces all the powers and duties conferred on the Commissioners, which, as we have seen, in strict conformity with the act, limits them to New York.

Fifth—Not only is the Metropolitan Fire Department thus limited to New York, but Brooklyn is carefully excluded from it.

Sixth—The act itself, at sections 5, 7, 10 and 22 declares, in terms, that the department hereby created is the Metropolitan Department of the city of New York. See section 27 and chapter 356, laws of 1862.

Seventh—The Metropolitan Fire Department being confined to the city of New York, and the Commissioners being officers of that department to permit their powers and duties and the property of said department to be used by them as by section five they are permitted outside of the department, neither enlarges nor disturbs their local character under their appointment as Metropolitan Fire Commissioners. The real effect of the act, if held to be constitutional, will be but to transfer the organized Fire Department of the city of New York, as it stands, from its present officers to those of the Metropolitan Fire Department.

POINTS FOR THE NEW COMMISSIONERS.

Ex-Judge Allen, in arguing the case for the new Commissioners, submitted the following points:—

First—The act above mentioned establishes a new civil division of the State for certain purposes, composed of the cities of New York and Brooklyn, called the "Metropolitan Fire District of the State of New York;" and this may constitutionally be done provided the divisions recognized by the constitution are not abolished, nor their incapacity impaired to subserve the purposes and arrangements to which they are made instrumental by the constitution.

Second—The defendants are officers having powers and jurisdiction in the whole of this new civil division, and their offices are new offices created since the adoption of the constitution. The Legislature may, therefore, provide for their appointment or election, as they may seem fit, under act ten, section two, of the constitution; and this even if they had been invested with all the powers of former officers who had been formerly appointed by local authority.

Third—The defendants are invested with other and different powers from those formerly vested in any other officers or boards.

Fourth—The officers mentioned in the complaint into whose offices the defendant are charged with having intruded were not public officers in any sense, but they were simply officers of a corporation known as the "Fire Department of the City of New York," created by act of the Legislature of the State of New York, passed March 20, 1798; and the firemen of said city are not, nor were they at the time of the adoption of the constitution, public officers, nor city or county officers, but simply members of the said corporation; they held no public or civil trust, had no functions or auth