THE ARIONS.

Grand Bal Masque at the Academy of Music Last Night.

CURIOUS COSTUMES AND SCENES.

Splendid Decorations and Delightful Music.

THE CARNIVALISTIC PERFORMANCES.

Immense Crowd---The Police Arrangements,

&c. &c. &c.

The masquerade of the Arion Society, which had been looked for so long, came off at the Academy of Music last night, and was one of the most brilliant affairs of this class. Preparations had been made on a truly grand scale for some weeks to make this masquerade one of the finest affairs that has ever taken place in the country, and it will, no doubt, be set down as a prominent event, not only in the annals of the Arion Society, but in the history of the carnival in this country, the introduction of which is owing in a great measure to the jolly members of the Arion. The weather was, it is true, not favorable; but this had not the slightest effect so far as the Arion ball was concerned; for all the tickets in the market had been disposed of, and more were in great demand. The number of tickets sold amounted to about fifteen hundred. At eight o'clock the doors of the Academy were opened, and soon carriage after carriage arrived, emptying crowds of people in gay costumes, and soon the ballroom began to be enlivened with ladies and gentlemen in glittering and costly robes. The Academy of Music presented a scene of great brilliancy and gayety last night, and it may not be often that such jollyfication proceedings and droll scenes will be enacted there. The interior of the Academy not only presented a most brilliant, but, at the same time, a rather curious, half mysterious aspect, considering the many curious appliances that had been erected and posted on the stage and in various parts of the house. They might have been taken for instruments of torture and death if they had been discovered at other places; but these appliances were only there to be used in performing the jocular and ludicrous carnival farces, which on this occasion were very numerous and of an original character. Among the decorations appeared here and there an ugly caricature, grinning at the audience, and in the rear of the stage was, among others, to be seen a contrivance which appeared to be a Third avenue car, and some of the spectators doubtless wondered what the object of that railroad car might be when they first entered the ballroom. On the roof of this car, which had been built especially for the purpose, took place sundry performances. Shortly after nine o'clock the ballroom was nearly filled, and the dances began by a quadrille.

THE ORIGIN OF THE CARNIVAL.

The carnival originated during the sixth century, when by Pope Gregory the season of Lent was introduced, and it originated from the pagan festivities among the Christian Romans, which were known as saturnalias. The saloons were much opposed to the introduction of these heathen festivities among the early Christians, who on these occasions would put masks on their faces and drum as demons and ghosts. They would worship, like the original pagans, Bacchus and Venus, and engage in all kinds of curious and excessive pastimes. The carnival season lasted from Epiphany until the season of Lent. On a most extensive scale the carnival was celebrated at Rome and Venice, where the carnival is still celebrated with a great deal of promptness. In some places these peculiar festivities were continued only for eight days, and at other places only three days were devoted to the amusements. At Venice the carnival consists of a series of dramatic performances, masquerades and public demonstrations on the Piazza of St. Mark, and when persons are in attendance regulations and rules are in order. Formerly a second carnival was celebrated at Venice on the occasion of the marriage of the Doge with the Adriatic. The carnival at Rome is generally continued eight days, and consists of a series of masquerades and sports. In Germany the carnival is nearly confined to the districts on the Rhine, and is prominently celebrated at Cologne and at Mayence. The term "carnival" it will be recollected, is derived from the Latin words carne levamen, as it marks the consumption of meats. From Italy the saturnalias of the Christian Romans were introduced in other European countries, especially in Southern Germany. From the mummeries of the German originated the drama, and, as in the old town of Nuremberg, the first Fastnacht plays were represented by the "Master Singers"—(Meister Singer).

These Fastnacht plays resembled the farces of the French and the masks of the English, which originated much in the same way.

In this country the carnival has been introduced by the German Musical societies, especially by the Arion and other prominent organizations.

THE DECORATIONS.

The Academy on this occasion was of course brilliantly decorated, and not a single spot from the floor to the gallery had been left unnoticed. The stage had been transformed into an immense tent, in the rear of which, in jets of gas, the name "Arion" appeared, and a representative of the ancient Arion riding through the waves on a dolphin. The balconies and galleries were decorated with magnificent carnivalistic devices and emblems. The pillars were embroidered with wreaths and flowers, and in front of the balcony seats were placed a variety of living flowers. A number of carnivalistic caricatures were to be seen peeping through these decorations, and the whole presented a sight of unusual splendor.

The decorations were made up in a style which is called the Oriental, made carnivalistic by the carnivalistic emblems. On each side of the family circle was placed a colossal figure, representing respectively a male and female, with movable features. The dome was beautifully decorated with garlands and with an immense transparency in form of an enormous star, beneath which hung a balloon, made of natural flowers, with the name of "Arion" inscribed in flowers. This balloon, which was wholly composed of flowers, had been prepared at great expense.

In the rear of the stage a thing, composed of a series of scenerios, was erected, which appeared to be a Third avenue railroad car, on the roof of which the carnivalistic performances took place. A rope and several cords were drawn from this railroad car to the gallery, which were used as contrivances for carnivalistic performances by means of automatons. In front of the stage, on the ceiling, were arranged a series of scenery representing clouds, in which appeared a series of caricatures in the shape of angels, with rather sanguine faces, they being mostly the portraits of members of the Arion Society. The decorations were complete in every respect, and it appears that no expense had been spared.

THE BALL TICKET.

The ball ticket alone presents a curious combination of characters, representing the recent Mayor's election from a carnivalistic point of view. A number of portraits of well known officials and persons are to be seen on the face of the ticket, and it appears from the groups that there is a great run to gain admission to the Arion ball which takes place in the year of our Lord 1866, on the 6th of February; but it seems that persons not otherwise can gain admittance only on certain conditions. They have to procure a "partner" or run before a piece, these partners being designed by a thick headed gentleman riding on a donkey, who is provided with a pair of skates. This immense head, covered with a fool's cap, attached to which is a waterfall, is a portrait of the President of the United States, and no one who is familiar with his face could mistake him. In front of the picture are to be found the four candidates for the Mayoralty, and Mayor Hoffman stands triumphantly riding on a third prosaic car, bound for the Academy of Music. He is looking with contempt upon his rival candidates, who were bound for the same destination, Marshall O. Roberts being simply seated on board of a steamer, supposed to have been chartered for the purpose of navigating himself to the Academy. While John Hecker is to get there on foot, carrying at the same time a bag of flour. The fourth candidate, who is dressed in tars, stands outside the bar, and would to have very little chance in the race. He bears a transparency with the number "8,051" inscribed, which tallies with the number of votes cast for ex-Mayor Gunther during the last municipal election. At his side stands a curious looking crumpled character, resembling Mephistopheles. On the roof of the car, in which the Mayor rides, is to be seen an unmasked devil, who, it appears, is allowed to enter the Academy. On the right of the picture, in the foreground, is a cage, containing Jefferson Davis, who is in vain stretching out his hand for a pardon ticket or for a ball ticket for the Arion. All these pictures are well executed portraits of the individuals they represent. Among a great number of mottos on the ticket bears the inscription, "Arion Fancy Dress Ball." This ticket, which has been prepared in the atelier of Julius Fink, a member of the Arion Society, has been executed with great artistic skill, and forms quite a curious monument of carnivalistic history.

GRAND CARNIVAL MARCH.

This grand march in the procession, when Prince Carnival makes his entrance, took place shortly before eleven o'clock, when the festivities were in full bloom. The procession, which entered the ballroom from the right side of the stage, was composed of two grand divisions, the one representing "war," embracing a number of warlike characters, ancient and modern; and the other representing "peace." The first section of the procession formed the War division, which was headed by twelve harlequins and pierrots. The procession, in which the following characters and curiosities appeared, moved in the following order:—

THE WAR DIVISION.

The floor committee, commanded by Captain John O. Hundt and Captain G. Bien.

Brass band in Herold costumes playing martial airs.

Warriors, representing old Romans in costume.

Mars and Bellona—Mars being represented by Lieutenant Colonel Brestel, Bellona by somebody not known.

General Grant, in a triumphal car, surrounded by Generals Sherman, Sheridan, Butler and staff (Grant being represented by Mr. Ely, Sheridan by Mr. Reinhardt, Butler by Mr. Filius; the staff represented by Messrs. Giesson, Wohlgemuth, Adams, Major Kleinschmidt and Chr. Freriche).

United States soldiers.

A gold broker (Mr. Wully), with a sign designating, "Gold 62 85," and a bounty broker (Mr. Menkel), with a sign, "Wanted, 50,000 able bodied recruits for Uncle Sam. Bounty $1,000."

United States sailors.

A keg of patent beer (by Mr. Francis Schmidt), a curious looking individual.

Little Mac, and his banker August Schoenberg (adopted son of Baron Rothschild), with an empty cash box. The cash is being exhausted on account of the heavy disbursements at the late Chicago Convention and long travelling in Europe. Little Mac was represented by a dwarf named Mr. Fritz Oetke.

PEACE DIVISION.

Columbia, surrounded by the thirty-seven States of the Union, represented by thirty-seven ladies in various costumes.

Music band, playing martial airs.

President Johnson, on a platform with several tailors, who do their utmost to repair some of the States which are most in need of it, like South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, &c. (The President was represented by Mr. Francis Bang.)

Brother Jonathan, arm in arm with the "Deutsche Michel" (German Michel), represented by the gigantic Mr. Appelbaum and the stout looking Mr. Grosskurth.

Fenians, with the Irish flag, dressed in short dress coats, short kneebreeches, woollen stockings and big shoes with buckles, bearing shillelahs; one side representing the O'Mahony interest, with a full cash box—the other the Senatorial, or Roberts faction. As good specimens of Fenians, representing the character truly, Messrs. Fritz Dankelmann, Conrad Steuernagel and John Rusge might be mentioned.

Prince Carnival, on a throne surrounded and followed by an army of harlequins.

Queens of Flowers—Snowbell (Mrs. Triacca), Rose (Mrs. Richard), Camelia (Mrs. Friedeborn), Geranium (Mrs. Hartmann), and Forget Me Not (Miss Tivy). The ladies were dressed in black, red, yellow, green and white tarlatans, dotted respectively with gold and silver stars, the dress trimmed with the flowers corresponding with the character to be represented. Crowns of flowers adorned the heads of the queens.

Eight large dahlias.

Ninth General Saengerfest.—Flagbearer and Director. Marshal as student (an original bootmaker). Permanent Secretary of all the coming festivals. These latter representing characters who took a prominent part in the Saengerfest.

Then the following glee clubs, with large drinking horns and other insignias, viz:—Crying Academy of Bottletown, Bullfrogs Ville Glee Club, Jersey Flats Liederkranz, Dutch Hill Saengerbund, Salt River Maennerchor, Washington Territory Mixed Chorus.

Grand target excursion of the Platdeutsche Schuetzen for Bremen, preceded by a dilettanti band, playing most dolefully, said band belonging to the Jersey Flats' Liederkranz, Capt. Henne, commander.

This procession formed one of the most ludicrous performances that ever was arranged in the New York Academy, and, in its way, a well gotten up affair.

THE COMMITTEE.

The committee arrangements were perfect. The floor committee appeared in magnificent costumes representing knights of the middle ages, Mr. Hundt being the president of this very fine corps. The finest and most heroic looking men had been selected for this committee from among the members of the society. The guests' committee held forth in the green room, and was composed of Messrs. Friedeborn, Flach, Hundt, Pick and Richard, who did not fail to entertain their distinguished guests and the members of the press. An important committee was the Committee on Decorations, of whom Captain Hexaminer was the President. There were, of course, a half a dozen other committees in operation.

THE POLICE.

Arrangements inside the house were under charge of Captain Cameron and Sergeant Vosburgh, of the Eighteenth precinct, and were so disposed as to give the utmost satisfaction. Only ten had been detailed for the arduous duty of keeping almost half as many thousand of people in order, but these had been placed in such positions, and acted under such directions, as made the task seem a comparatively easy one to those uninitiated in the management of masses of men and women. It is proverbial with the Germans that they are one of the easiest companies ever gathered together to take care of. Let them understand just what is required of them and they yield all once. So it was last evening, and so it transpired that only ten intelligent policemen, under two experienced leaders, were required to preserve that order which was so universally observed and spoken about.

PRINCE CARNIVAL

was represented in the person of Mr. Alexander Eibers, who appeared in a new costume of a most splendid and costly pattern. The Prince made a splendid appearance, and was one of the finest masks present.

THE COSTUMES.

The Academy became for the night cosmopolitan in age and clime. Roman legionaries, such as would have adorned the house of Sheridan or Pompey; Crusaders of the most knightly mein and attire; monks sandwiched between Peruvian princesses and Indian squaws; clowns, harlequins, hugs demijohns, ferocious Fenians; a ragpicker of the most dilapidated description; cavaliers such as might have been with Rowley in his mad pranks; austere Puritans of the "How-Long-in-peace" order; a descendant of the Incas in full costume, with a cage full of South American birds on his back; shepherdesses, flower girls, houris from Circassia and Georgia such as the Arab dreams of in his hasheesh dreams; the original light of the Harem, from Stamboul, and, in theatre parlance, others too numerous to mention, moved in kaleidoscopic order on the immense platform, forming a mosaic grouping of brilliant costumes and dancing plumes. Looking from the second tier the scene was more like what the genie of the "Arabian Nights" would conjure up with his magic wand than what a number of staid, plodding Teutons had prepared. From every nook of the vast amphitheatre the artistic genius of Nicolai Meister peeped forth and shed a lustre on the panorama below.

SCENES INSIDE.

The platform, laden with its human freight of masqueraders, deserves a prominent mention. The clowns and harlequins, and there were many of them, ably sustained their *rôles*. Flitting amid the crowd they were ever on the alert to play their mischievous pranks on timid dominoes or saucy contrabands, who shuffled through the throng. An Indian princess in her gorgeous dress of feathers and bead work, executed a galopade arm in arm with an American citizen of African descent, who would have charmed Thad. Stevens himself by his development of mouth and teeth. She delighted in tapping some grave Cistercian on the curl with her wand, and meeting his solemn remonstrance with a saucy toss of the head.

THE GYMNASTS.

The Arion Society, like all German organizations, pays particular attention to the development of muscle. The Turners were present in full force, and entertained the company with acrobatic feats which would have shamed many of our *ci-devant* first class circuses. Every distortion of the human body and display of agility and strength were shown by those gymnasts. Hand springs, double somersaults, mounting on each other's shoulders, until they formed a pillar of human forms in every attitude, attracted a crowd around them. Nothing could surpass the brilliancy and splendor of the variegated *coup d'œil* that we witnessed from the second tier at eleven o'clock.

THE MUSIC.

Messrs. Rietzel & Dietz well attended to this department. The programme of music consisted of the following excellent selections:—

Ouverture, Robert le Diable	Meyerbeer
Pastoralsinfonie	Meyerbeer
Walz, Die schoenen Wiener	Strauss
Quadrille, Carnival	Strauss
Gallop, Echo	Hergmann
Lancers, Souvenir	F. Rietzel
Schottische, Automata	Spindler
Walz, Lebenspulse	Lanner
Quadrille, Fashion	Strauss
Polka, Blumenlese	Rietzel
Gallop, Sonderecht	Faust
Lancers, Arion	Rietzel
Polka Redowa, Satellite	Voss
Walz, Morning flowers	Strauss
Quadrille, Flying	Strauss
Gallop, Victoria	Rietzel
Schottische, Arion	Bergmann
Walz, Immer heiterer	Strauss
Polka, Album	Rietzel
Quadrille, Reunion	Rietzel
Polka Redowa, Sassafras	Strauss
Gallop, Waterfall	Rietzel

There is something massive and gorgeous about the music of Fatherland which cannot be found in even the sunny climes of Italy or Spain. Therefore the music last night was of the most rocherche and grand description, comprising some of the best works of Strauss and Rietzel. In the galleries the scene below partook of the brilliant and grotesque. Over one hundred couples of masqueraders dashing through the "Echo" and "Victoria" presented a mise en scene of Oriental magnificence, more than of American Terpsichorean. A monk of La Trappe, or St. Bernard, encircling the waist of a French paysanne, or a Sister of the St. Teresa order, forgot his gravity and religious decorum when the winsome tones of the magnificent orchestra, directed by a master hand, awoke the innermost sensibilities of the heart and gave it wholly and unreservedly into the power of Terpsichore. Cavaliers paid their devoirs to the Aztec maidens, and even Puritans chirped their Elizabethan demoiselles. Thus the carnival progressed, and the reign of jollity and pleasure was undisputed. Towards midnight the fun grew fast and furious, and every exaggeration of the human form in costume and action was indulged in. The Arion Society has never achieved such another success as last night.

OUTSIDE SCENES,

owing to the dust detailing rain which persisted in falling during the arrival of the guests, were neither so brilliant nor inviting as had been anticipated. This made but little difference to the comers, however, who rolled up in their carriages regardless of the unpropitious elements, and alighted with an elasticity which indicated that the weather had in newise depressed their spirits or lessened their anticipations as to what was in store for their wondering optics. The carriages began to arrive as early as half-past six, and from that time until midnight did not cease for an interval of more than five minutes at any one time. So far everything betokened the grand success of the efforts made by the "Arions," who had determined to outstrip all previous efforts. The carriages and their drivers had an usual been left to the admirable management of Captain Brackett, who, with Sergeant Robinson and twelve men from the Twenty-sixth precinct, conducted matters veneath to the full satisfaction of the spectators, the committee and the guests.

The crowd was a numerous and exceedingly orderly one. Our German friends who were not the favored possessors of tickets had assembled in large numbers, men and women, to look at the costumes and see who had come. The native born were out as well, and stood patiently for four long hours in the rain gazing at the endless variety of costumes, masks, dominoes, wigs, swords, helmets and all the gorgeous paraphernalia of a fully costumed carnival. It was not a crowd of spectators drawn from any particular class of the community. It was a company of rollicking, curiosity seekers, who knew the elements of fun had been loosed for the night, and though they might not see it in the full blaze and glitter of the house inside, there was still enough to be seen without to challenge their admiration and fully repay them for waiting. Every class and condition appeared to be represented, and the little ragged urchin, with bare feet, who all day long had begged his pennies for sweeping the crossways, jostled with impecunious freedom against the man of millions, who puffed his cigar and gazed on in silence.

The speculators were busier than anybody, the police excepted. They had tickets in every variety of price. They would take twenty dollars, if twenty-five were not available, and finally dropped to fifteen. The price lowered as did the crusts of the speculators as the evening wore on. At seven they were independent in their demands. At nine a little less so. At ten tickets might be had of them at par. Two hours later and they were chop fallen to a degree. Those who desired tickets were afraid to purchase them, doubting their genuineness, and those who would have purchased at their own risk were deterred from doing so by the timely admonitions of the police. At the close of the ball the utmost order was observed by the carriages in taking up the guests, who were contented to abide the regulations and take each as fast as it came into line.

THE CONNECTICUT ELECTION.

Interesting Gubernatorial Contest—The Democracy Jubilant and Confident—The Chances of Mr. English and General Hawley—A Radical Negro Suffrage Platform to be Adopted by the Republicans—Sketch of the Other Democratic Candidates, &c.

OUR HARTFORD CORRESPONDENCE.

HARTFORD, CONN., Feb. 8, 1866.

The gubernatorial contest in this State, regularly opened yesterday by the nomination of the Hon. James E. English as the democratic standard bearer, is exciting an unusual degree of interest in every part of the Commonwealth. The democrats are highly elated and express themselves confident of success. Mr. English they regard as eminently suited to the emergency—a man who will gather to his support every element of his own party and no mean share of the conservative, Johnsonian branch of the divided and discordant opposition. The old, experienced heads of the democracy consider that they have laid their plans so well this time that nothing short of a miracle can prevent the defeat of the republicans. Mr. English was solicited and even forced into accepting the nomination. I am reliably informed that he repeatedly declined to allow his name to be used; and only eight days before the assembling of the Convention was his consent wrung from him, so to speak, by the persistent entreaties of the leading men of his party. In securing his nomination it is believed that his firm stand on the war question while in Congress, his vote in favor of the abolition of slavery, and his popularity with the working classes, taken in connection with the wise platform adopted by the Convention, will so operate in his favor as to allure away from whatever person may be nominated by his opponents a sufficient number of votes to insure his elevation to the chair about to be vacated by Governor Buckingham. Another circumstance is also likely to work in his favor. It is said that the republicans have settled upon their choice, and that the man who will be nominated by them at their Convention next week is Joe Hawley, a politician of the most radical stripe, and imbued with all the heresies of Sumner and Stevens. Mr. Hawley is the editor of the Hartford *Evening Press*, the local organ of the republicans. He went to the war as lieutenant colonel of the regiment of which General Terry was in command, and subsequently rose to the ranks of colonel and brigadier general. His paper is the advocate of niggerism in its most ultra form, going the length of favoring the immediate granting of the right of negro suffrage—a doctrine which is exceedingly unpopular in this State, and which, it will be remembered, was recently voted down by a large majority. It is easy to understand that a man of his radical principles would stand very bad with the people as a candidate for the highest office in the State, even if nominated on a very moderate platform. But if, as is said to be the intention of the republican managers, resolutions of the most rabid abolition character, including the endorsement of Sumner, Stevens, negro suffrage and the most objectionable kind of reconstruction restrictions, are adopted by the Convention, the last hope of retaining control of the State government may be abandoned. These are the views expressed by the leading democrats, and are entertained also by hundreds of clear headed republicans. The latter predict a division of their party if such a policy is persisted in. Again, Mr. Hawley, it is asserted, stands very poorly with the office holders, and United States Senator Dixon is one of his most bitter opponents. However, whether this be true or not, it is generally conceded that Mr. Hawley will obtain the nomination, perhaps without encountering any serious opposition from rival candidates. The only person, indeed, who has been mentioned as a competitor is a Mr. Harrison, of New Haven, and he, it is said, declines to be a candidate, believing that he would stand no chance with the Convention against his martial and jour nalistic opponent. This, then, at present, is the condition of the gubernatorial contest—the democracy presenting an unbroken, harmonious and earnest front, and the republicans split up into two vast and unyielding divisions.

Respecting the rest of the ticket little is known as yet relative to the intentions of the republicans. There appears, indeed, to be scarcely any excitement or competition concerning the other offices.

Mr. Ephraim R. Hyde, the democratic candidate for Lieutenant Governor, is a large manufacturer of Stafford, Tolland county, and, though the district in which he resides is one of the blackest in the State, his friends predict that he will sweep it by a large majority.

Mr. Jesse Olney, for Secretary of State, is a venerable democrat, sound on all the living issues of the day. He is the famous geographer, whose works are in general use all over the New England States.

Of Mr. Reman H. Barbour and Colonel Tom Kingsbury, the respective candidates for Treasurer and Comptroller, so much is not known publicly as of the other candidates. The latter served in the late rebellion, and is, I understand, an old student of West Point.

As interesting to the old politicians of your own State, I may add, in conclusion, that the Hon. Thomas H. Bond, who presided over the Democratic Convention yesterday, was once a prominent New Yorker, having represented, many years ago, the Littlejohn district in the State Senate, and filled other offices. He was, during the two last contests, a formidable candidate for Lieutenant Governor, on the ticket with Colonel Tom Seymour.

Canada.

RECIPROCITY—FENIANISM—A BANQUET TO ATTORNEY GENERAL MACDONALD, ETC.

TORONTO, Feb. 8, 1866.

The failure of reciprocity negotiations at Washington calls forth universal regret from those most interested; but the Canadian press generally exult at the result. The *Globe* says:—

One happy result of the course adopted by the United States will be the speedy confederation of the British American provinces, the absolute necessity of which will be now apparent. With confederation will be carried the improvement of internal communications throwing open lands to free settlement; the gradual reduction of the customs tariff opening new markets; the vigorous prosecution of fishery and universal enterprise—the opening up of the Northwest, the commencement of an enlarged system of emigration westward, and a revision of the system of banking and currency. The people of British America need not doubt that brighter prospects in the future are before them.

Fenian matters remain quiet; but considerable concern is felt on the St. Lawrence, where an attack is nightly expected.

A great political dinner was given to Attorney General Macdonald, in this city to-night, by the Law Society of Canada.

News from North Carolina.

THE MILITARY DISTRICT OF WILMINGTON DISCONTINUED—ARREST OF AN ORDNANCE OFFICER FOR MALAPPROPRIATION OF GOVERNMENT FUNDS, ETC.

WILMINGTON, N. C., Feb. 6, 1866.

Orders have been received here to immediately discontinue the Military District of Wilmington. Brevet Brigadier General Goff, commanding, goes to the command of his regiment, the Thirty-seventh colored. The headquarters of the Southville military post will be retained here, with a garrison of four companies of the Twenty-eighth Michigan. But three regiments of infantry now remain in the State—two colored and one white.

It is thought that the department will be soon merged into that of Virginia or South Carolina.

Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Bradley, of the Veteran Reserve corps, has assumed command of this department of the Freedmen's Bureau to-day, relieving Major Wyckersham, now absent on leave. Major Wyckersham has been a very successful and popular officer.

Lieutenant Duckins, Thirteenth United States colored, lately ordnance officer of this district, has been placed in close arrest charged with malappropriation of public funds. He had had the disposition of a large amount of public property, including returns from the Fayetteville Arsenal, recently sold at auction under his direction. An inspection of his accounts, summarily made, disclosed facts not altogether satisfactory. Hence his arrest.

NEWBERN, N. C., Feb. 6, 1866.

The regular Union ticket was victorious here to-day at the city election by fifty-two majority. The contest was warm and drew out the largest vote ever before known in this city. Teams have been running and American flags flying during the day over Northern and Southern Union jubilants.

The Maryland Legislature.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 8, 1866.

The resolutions of the House of Delegates of Maryland, endorsing President Johnson, were passed by the Senate to-day.

MAILS FOR THE PACIFIC.

The mail steamship Atlantic, Captain Maury, will leave this port to-morrow, at noon, for Aspinwall.

The mails for Central America and the South Pacific will close at half-past ten o'clock to-morrow morning.

The NEW YORK HERALD—Edition for the Pacific—will be published at half-past nine o'clock in the morning. Single copies in wrappers, ready for mailing, six cents.

THE STATE CAPITAL.

PROSPECTS OF THE HEALTH BILL.

Thirty Thousand Dollars Appropriated for the Gettysburg Soldiers' Cemetery.

&c. &c. &c.

ALBANY, Feb. 8, 1866.

THE HEALTH BILL.

A very lively canvass is in active progress upon the Health bill. It is anticipated that it may be reported in the morning and sent to the Senate on Saturday for concurrence, so as to prevent any positive concentration there against it. It will be amended as provided in the republican caucus. The radicals claim seventy-five votes for their form of the bill. This would leave but fourteen or fifteen for the conservatives, there being ninety republican votes in the Assembly altogether.

The democrats held a formal caucus on the Health bill at five o'clock this afternoon. Ben Wood and Dr. Chambers were the only Senators present. Mr. Cramer, of New York, submitted a resolution, which, after lengthy discussion, was adopted, with few dissenting votes. It pledges the support of the thirty-eight democratic votes in the House to the Senate bill on all the preliminary votes, leaving the final vote to be given against the bill.

The conservatives, or Weed men, claim a larger vote than the radicals allow them; but they do not hope to prevent the adoption of the amendment giving Governor Fenton the appointing power, even with the aid of the thirty-eight democrats.

Governor Seymour and other leading democrats from different parts of the State are here, taking a sanguine survey of the political field. The prospect of a split on this subject, which would permanently explode the dominant party, is looked for with the keenest anticipations.

The caucus of the democrats presented a strong contrast in its harmony and good feeling to the uproar presented by the councils of the other side. Boole and a strong delegation of New York politicians are in attendance here.

A committee of the Citizens' Association came up last night, but as they found themselves utterly lost in the clashing of the factions they went back to-day, hopeless of getting any grip here. Nothing is heard but the din about Weed and Greeley, radical and anti-radical, and nothing but these interests are entertained for a moment. The excitement about the Health bill absorbs everything else.

THE STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The State Medical Society reconvened at half-past nine o'clock this morning. Resolutions were adopted declaring as the sense of the Society that the cholera may be mainly, if not entirely, prevented from becoming epidemic in any city, town or locality, by the adoption and enforcement of rigid hygienic measures concurring in the recommendations of the Council of Hygiene and Public Health of New York; returning thanks for the full and able report on epidemic cholera adopted by said council November 14, 1865, and recommending that a copy of the same be placed in the hands of all Common Councils, town authorities and Boards of Health; also thanking Drs. Sayre, Murphy and Swinburne and Mayor Hoffman for their efforts to exclude the cholera from our shores. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, Joseph C. Hutchison, of Brooklyn; Vice President, Julien T. Williams, of Dunkirk; Secretary, William H. Bailey, of Albany; Treasurer, J. V. P. Quackenbush, of Albany.

ALBANY, Feb. 8—10 P. M.

THE POLICE COMMISSIONER.

A statement having been circulated this evening to the effect that Ben Wood had caused action to be taken at the democratic caucus in regard to sustaining McMurray for Police Commissioner, a consultation of the radical leaders was at once called at the Delavan House to-night, and a republican candidate to fill the place of McMurray conclusively resolved upon. The name of the candidate will not be brought up until a full caucus can be had.

THE HEALTH BILL.

A minority report is certain to be made on the Health bill to-morrow, which will be signed by one or more of the republican members of the committee.

NEW YORK LEGISLATURE.

Senate.

ALBANY, Feb. 8, 1866.

Petitions were presented for a Metropolitan Baggage act, and to incorporate the Workingmen's Union of New York.

BILLS REPORTED FAVORABLY.

To regulate taxes on lands taken, or to be taken, for Croton Aqueduct purposes; to increase the powers and duties of Courts of Special Sessions, except in New York and Albany.

By Mr. GIBSON, (rep.) of Washington—A majority report to extend the term of office of Justices in the Eighth Judicial district of New York.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

By Mr. H. C. MURPHY, (dem.) of Kings—To cancel certain contracts relative to the Tenth avenue sewer in New York.

By Mr. G. G. SCHUYLER, (dem.) of New York—To incorporate the Sisters of the Poor of St. Francis in New York; to incorporate the Cinderella Library Association of New York.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

By Mr. E. CORNELL, (rep.) of Tompkins—To provide for the reduction of the capital stock of banking associations.

By Mr. LAWY, (rep.) of New York—To regulate the sale of intoxicating liquors in Metropolitan Police districts. It constitutes a board of police commissioners of the Excise Commissioners, vesting in them exclusive powers to grant licenses.

By Mr. BENNETT, (rep.) of Erie—To define the powers of railroad companies in certain cases. It provides that it shall not be lawful for any railroad company organized under the laws of this State to engage in or permit its funds or property to be employed in the manufacture of any articles except such as shall be required in its own business, or in receiving, storing or delivering any property, excepting such as is required for its own use, or has been, or is contracted to be transported over its own or some connecting railroad.

BILLS PASSED.

Relative to McDonald and Mason streets, Brooklyn. To change the name of the Phœnix Fire Insurance Company, Brooklyn. Requiring County Treasurers to give bonds to the State. Amending the charter of the Firemen's Fund Insurance Company of New York. Incorporating the American Exploring and Mining Company. Requiring sailor boardinghouse keepers and runners in New York and Brooklyn to be licensed. Appropriating twenty thousand dollars for a soldiers' national cemetery at Gettysburg.

Adjourned.

Assembly.

ALBANY, Feb. 8, 1866.

THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BILL.

The House, in Committee of the Whole, ordered the Annual Appropriation bill to a third reading.

POWERS OF THE FIVE POINTS HOUSE OF INDUSTRY.

The bill to confer power on the Five Points House of Industry to bind out children, was considered.

Mr. VERNER, (dem.) of Kings, moved to amend so as to require the consent of parents or guardians, or persons having legal control of the child.

The amendment was debated at some length, and lost by 26 to 47 votes.

Mr. TUCKER, (dem.) of New York, moved to amend—that no child shall be apprenticed unless under the lawful charge and custody of the institution, which was lost. The bill was then ordered to a third reading.

Mr. WILSON, (rep.) of Dutchess, offered the following, which was referred:—

CONTRACTION OF THE NATIONAL CURRENCY.

Resolved, That our Senators and Representatives in Congress be requested to urge the immediate passage of such act or acts as may be necessary to cause a safe and speedy contraction of the national currency, and to compel the resumption of specie payments at the earliest practicable day.

Adjourned.

News from San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 6, 1866.

The trial of the mutineers of the ship White Swallow commenced here yesterday.

Mining stocks uniformly firmer. Savage, $950; Ophir, $300; Chollar Potosi, $284; Imperial, $117; Yellow Jacket, $370; Hale & Norcross, $930. Legal tenders, 70⅝ bid, 71 asked.

The Fleetest of a Handkerchief that has been baptized with the extract of the "NIGHT BLOOMING CEREUS" inherent to the atmosphere of a room a fragrance which cannot be mistaken in any conservatory of odorous exotics in the land. It is as enduring as it is pure and enchanting. PHALON & SON, New York.

A Boon.—Ward's Ladies' Paper Collars and Cuffs. Also Gents', wholesale and retail. A wholesale price list, with drawings of different styles, sent free to the trade. S. W. R. WARD, 337 Broadway, N. Y.

A Silent Sewing Machine, making the celebrated "Wilson and Gibbs Stitch," strong, elastic and durable. WILCOX & GIBBS, 658 Broadway.

Address.—Pollak & Son, Meerschaum Manufacturers, 697 Broadway, near Fourth street. Pipes, Cigarholders cut, mounted and repaired.

An Effectual Worm Medicine.

The combination of ingredients used in making BROWN'S "VERMIFUGE CONFITS" is such as to give the best possible effect with safety.

Worms in the stomach cause irritation and often prolonged sickness, and can be removed only by the use of a sure remedy, which will be found in the Vermifuge Confits.

A.—The Finest Ready Made Clothing in America.—Gents', Youths', Boys' and Children's, all quite equal to custom work. BROOKS BROTHERS, 82 Fourth avenue, opposite Cooper Union, and 68 Lafayette place.

All Legal Lottery Prizes Cashed, Drawings, circulars and information free. J. B. CLAYTON, 10 Wall street, N. Y.

A.—Beauty and Beauty.—Boots and Shoes of every description, for ladies, gents and children, cheap, at BROOKS, 697 Broadway. H. A. BROOKS, Agent.

A.—Snow Boots And stockings of warm and water proof Boots and Shoes for ladies, gents, boys and children, cheap, at BROOKS', 697 Broadway.

A.—De Quetteville's Electric Oil is warranted to cure Rheumatism, Deafness, Piles, Lame Back, Pains, &c., by its magnetic power. DELAS BARNES & CO. and F. C. WELLS, Agents, N. Y.

THE CHILEAN QUESTION.

Letter from Mr. MacKenna, the Special Chilean Envoy, Relative to His Arrest.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

NEW YORK, Feb. 8, 1866.

The NEW YORK HERALD and most of the daily papers of this city having published erroneous statements concerning the attempted arrest made of my person by the United States Marshal on the evening of the 6th inst., I hope that you will permit me to state the facts in the case, and place this affair, with which the public are so intensely interested, in its true light. What really took place is simply as follows:—

I was enjoying the quiet of my residence, when I was informed that one or several persons unknown to me wished to see me. Moreover, as I have given the strictest orders to the servants to admit no one to my presence without first bringing me their names, their admission was denied. Nevertheless, my private secretary, who expressly occupies a room for the reception of those who solicit interviews with me, so as to leave me free from the innumerable importunates who assail my house every day, received the persons who sought me, and inquired the object of their visit, such being the directions which he had received from me.

The United States Marshal, who came accompanied by five officers, resorted at the commencement to subterfuges altogether unnecessary; but as soon as he declared his name and business my secretary ascended to my room, and I at once went down stairs to present myself to that functionary.

I asked to see the warrant of arrest, and, after having read it, quietly observed that I could not be arrested, because, although my position in this country had been that of special agent of Chile, I could also claim diplomatic immunity as Secretary of the Chilean Legation at Washington, which title I had in my possession, and could show it then and there.

The Marshal, who conducted himself with the utmost courtesy and respect, as also his subordinates, went to consult the United States District Attorney, and I despatched several telegrams to Washington, so that the Chilean Minister might take the necessary steps with the Secretary of State.

After the lapse of half an hour the Marshal returned and told me that I might remain in my house, go to the opera, or wherever I saw fit, and that one or two officers would accompany me with all due respect.

I accepted these conditions, and one deputy marshal only having remained—Mr. Robinson, an extremely civil young man—he did me the honor to dine with me and accompany me to the house of my banker, the highly respectable and worthy merchant, Mr. George G. Hobson, and to the house of my counsel, Mr. E. W. Stoughton, returning afterwards to his home and I to mine, where I slept free of the custody of any one.

All the mysterious details, the novel incidents and the inventions of all sorts published by the press are each and all of them fictions, gotten up to excite curiosity, or have perhaps been dictated by less noble motives. I have been assured that Spanish agents were found in the neighborhood of my house at the time when the attempt to take me to prison took place, and that those same agents insisted that the public functionary should execute it.

Be that as it may, Mr. Editor, nobody respects the prestige of the press more than I do; for I have been one of its members since my early youth. But not for that will I consent by my silence that any one should forge falsehoods in order to excite the public interest to the detriment of my name or the position which I occupy. I am a man who, knowing how to respect the laws and the Commonwealth, also know how to respect myself and to make myself respected by others elsewhere. I am accustomed to live in a country where the residences of citizens are considered sacred, according to the constitution, the law, the press and public customs. I wonder why the case should not be the same in the United States of America.

With regard to the motive of my attempted seizure it is "that I propose to fit out an expedition against the dominions of the Queen of Spain," according to the terms of the accusation. I will not at this time say a single word, neither will I explain the errors made by the telegraph in the transmission of the despatches of my honorable friend, Mr. Asta Burnga, the Chilean Minister at Washington. For all this the proper time will come before the tribunal of justice and before the grand jury of public opinion.

Until that time comes, and which I desire may be very soon, I will only permit myself to say that had I not been born in a country where treason has never been