this measure in the hands of men who are hostile to it? You would not bind out an orphan to a man who would abuse and outrage it. Would the men who are opposed to the whole principle of Commissions be very likely, if the power was placed in their hands, to administer it effectively and well? If Commissions should be established at all, which is a matter for difference of opinion, let us have a care that they are properly organized. You are asked to send the bill back and peril it upon the ground that it should be non-partisan. Give us, if that be so, some assurance that it will remain non-partisan. Suppose you divide the Commission equally now; how know you that it will remain so? To-morrow a Police Commissioner is to be elected in place of Mr. McMurray, and there is very great reason for doubt that this place will be filled by another gentleman of the same faith. But this not a sound or real reason. The true ground of opposition is the attachment of Senators to their own bill. We have been told of dangers in delay. Now the danger is upon the other side. In fifteen minutes you can pass the Health bill, and in fifteen minutes more it will become a law if you desire. If you pass a Health bill, this police board must enforce it, and it is an insult to the board to assume that it will not do its duty in the matter.

Mr. HAYT was in favor of a Health bill; but he did not think it respectful to the Governor to take from him the power of making appointments. He believed the Health bill to be a republican measure. Last winter and this winter the democrats have stood in a body against the principle of the Health bill. The Senator from the Twenty-second tells us that the men who defeated the bill of last winter were now in favor of the Assembly bill.

Mr. WHITE—What I stated at large was this: that the republicans of last year who voted in favor of the interests of the City Inspector are now to a man in favor of the Assembly bill.

Mr. HAYT—The members of the Assembly who defeated the bill of last year, and who have been returned by their constituents, have seen the error of their ways and do not propose to repeat it. This commission should be made an effective one, and the true way to make it effective is to put the appointments in the hands of the Governor. The Police Commissioners should be stricken out. They have now all they can do. The great majority of Assemblymen from New York oppose the principles of the bill. If we are to be governed by the representatives from New York, we must be governed by the majority. But that we got over years ago.

A vote was then taken on the motion to non-concur, which prevailed—19 to 11—as follows:—

YEAS—Messrs. Andrews, Campbell, Chambers, Collins, C. G. Cornell, E. Cornell, Crowley, Falger, Humphrey, Lent, L. Murphy, Pierson, Platt, Stanford, Sutherland, White, Wilber, Wolcott and Wood—19.

NAYS—Messrs. Barnett, Bennett, Gibson, Godard, Hayt, Kline, La Bau, Low, O'Donnell, Sessions and Williams—11.

The Senate then adjourned.

Assembly.

ALBANY, Feb. 15, 1866.

The Speaker presented the annual report of the Trustees of the Asylum for Deaf and Dumb; also the annual report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

BILLS PASSED.

To confirm the act of the Mayor and Commonalty of New York relative to contracts; to increase the police force in Richmond and certain parts of Kings county; to regulate the supply of stationery for the Erie county Supervisors; to pay the principal and interest on the Canal debt; the annual Appropriation bill; to exempt Soldiers' Home from taxation.

BILL LOST.

The bill to incorporate the American Museum Company was lost.

Adjourned.

NOTE.—In yesterday's report of the proceedings in the Assembly, it read that the Eighteenth ward Market bill was introduced by Mr. Dutcher. This was an error made by the telegraph. There is no such man in the Assembly. It was Mr. Tucker who introduced the bill.

MEXICO.

Arrival of Napoleon's Envoy to Maximilian at Havana.

The Liberal Army Preparing to March Against the French in Chihuahua.

&c. &c. &c.

The French Envoy to Maximilian at Havana.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 14, 1866.

Havana dates of the 9th inst. are at hand.

The steamer Louisiana had arrived there from France, *en route* to Vera Cruz. She had on board a special commissioner from the Emperor Napoleon to the Emperor Maximilian on important business.

The Louisiana also had on board a Belgian general, who will inform Maximilian of the accession of Leopold II. to the Belgian throne.

Official News from El Paso.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15, 1866.

Mr. Romero has received official news from El Paso, the residence of the Mexican government, up to the 20th of January. The French had made no further attempt to move on El Paso, and the Mexican army was about taking the initiative against the city of Chihuahua, occupied by the French forces.

OBITUARY.

Colonel James B. Murray.

This venerable citizen died at his residence in Washington place, in this city, on Wednesday evening, February 14, 1866, in the seventy-seventh year of his age. He was born in Alexandria, Virginia, November 16, 1789. His father, John B. Murray, was well known as a merchant of this city in 1791, and he and John P. Mumford were the heaviest tea merchants at that time in New York. His son's earlier education was commenced in England, whither he was accompanied by his father on a visit of a few years. In 1799 his father returned to New York and placed his son James at the school of Mr. Samuel Rudd, in Cedar street, where, among his schoolmates, were President Moore, of Columbia College; Professor McVickar and his brothers James and Archibald. In 1804 he entered the Sophomore class of Columbia College, and subsequently entered the counting room of his father, whose firm was then Murray, Mumford & Bowen, having a branch at Alexandria, Va., then the principal outlet for the export of grain, flour and tobacco to Europe.

In 1809 James B. Murray was appointed supercargo of the ship Egeria, Captain Richard Law, belonging to his father, on a voyage to Archangel, the first New York ship that ever entered that port. He was taken into partnership by his father in 1810, a period when our commercial affairs were threatened in every quarter. The firm was then John B. Murray & Son.

In 1808 a draft had been made for a military force to be sent to the frontier to prevent evasions of the Embargo law passed by Congress. He volunteered, and thus early entered into the service of his country. In 1811 he was commissioned lieutenant in a new regiment, which, on the breaking out of the war with England in 1812, was mustered into the service of the United States, and served in the campaign of that year. In March, 1813, he was obliged to go to Europe in consequence of the capture of a valuable ship by the French belonging to his firm. She had been carried into Copenhagen. He was, at the same time, appointed by the United States government to carry out their answer to the Emperor Alexander I. of Russia, who had offered his mediation to put an end to the war with England. He embarked in a cartel for Lisbon, where he was transferred to a British packet for England, whence he proceeded to Gothenburg, in Sweden, and thence to Copenhagen, arriving there in May, 1813.

At this time our Peace Commissioners, Albert Gallatin and James A. Bayard, with their secretaries, George M. Dallas and George Milligan, arrived in Russia. On his return through Gothenburg he met General Moreau on his way to join the allies against the Emperor Napoleon, but a few weeks previous to his death in the battle of Dresden. Passing through England, *en route* for home, Lieutenant Murray was arrested and thrown into prison on a warrant from Lord Sidmouth, Secretary of State, charging him with being an officer in the enemy's service. It required some time to satisfy the British government of the strictly private nature of his journey, but he was finally released, and, after waiting nearly a year for an opportunity to return home, he embarked in March, 1814, in the cartel True American for New York, and arrived in time to take part in another campaign against England, with the rank of lieutenant of cavalry.

In 1814 Colonel Murray was married to a daughter of the late Isaac Bronson, of this city. In 1817 he was appointed colonel of his regiment, but peace having been declared he resumed his commercial pursuits. From this occupation, however, he retired in 1828, the year of his father's death, and never again resumed business. In 1831 Colonel Murray was elected Assistant Alderman of the Ninth ward of this city, and was chosen by that Board their first President under the charter of 1830. In 1832 he was elected the first Alderman of the Fifteenth ward, and it is still remembered with what fidelity he remained at his post during the ravages of the Asiatic cholera in this city, while many of the Common Council fled panic-stricken from the infected city.

In 1833 he was elected President of the Morris Canal and Banking Company, to succeed the Hon. Cadwallader D. Colden, and during his administration the canal was finished from Newark to Jersey City.

Colonel Murray was one of the originators of the plan of supplying the city of New York with water from the Croton river, and lost his re-election in 1835 from that cause. Since that period he has taken no active part in public affairs, but always observed with deep interest the progress of the city and of the nation.

It is a remarkable fact that Colonel Murray was in the funeral processions which followed Washington and Lincoln to the grave. At the time of his death he was the oldest member of the New York Chamber of Commerce.

His funeral services will take place at the Mercer street church, near Eighth street, this afternoon, at three o'clock, and the remains will be removed to-morrow to the family vault at Greenfield Hill, Conn.

The Smallpox at Buffalo.

BUFFALO, Feb. 15, 1866.

The reports of the ravages of the smallpox in this city have been grossly exaggerated. There have not been over two hundred cases, instead of two thousand, as has been stated, at one time, and the disease is now on the decrease.

CARNIVAL.

UN BALLO IN MASCHERA

The Liederkranz Society in Costly Costume at the Academy of Music.

THE FUNNIEST PROGRAMME.

One Thousand Nights Boiled Down to One.

ALADDIN'S PALACE IN FOURTEENTH STREET

The Gorgeous Decorations, the Rich Dresses and the Merry Masks.

WHAT A LUDICROUS PROCESSION!

A! HA! HA

IMPROVED PROCESS OF FUN MAKING.

&c. &c. &c.

The Academy of Music was once more in a blaze of glory last night. The Liederkranz Society, whose festivities are always of a first class and select order, held its annual *bal masqué* at the Academy last night, which on this occasion was again fully decorated, and the house presented a most brilliant aspect. The floor committee, composed of thirty members, appeared in the splendid court costume which was in vogue during the reign of Louis XV., while Mr. Sterns, the leader of the committee, was dressed in the ancient Rococco style. The balcony seats were occupied by the spectators long before the ball commenced, which, on this occasion was somewhat later than usual. The dancing did not commence until after nine o'clock. A splendid orchestra, numbering one hundred and thirty instruments, under the lead of Mr. A. Bernstein, was in attendance to provide the music for the dances, while another orchestra under Mr. Dietz furnished the accompaniments for the promenade, which commenced to discourse shortly before nine o'clock. The Academy not only presented a brilliant and Oriental aspect, but also a curious sight. A very remarkable arrangement was to be seen on the right of the stage, where a sort of steamer had been placed, and various were the surmises as to what this curious contrivance was there for. It was the "James Watt," which afterwards was used for the carnival procession. In the rear of the stage two fountains had been erected, alleged to contain *eau de cologne*, and the stage itself looked like an immense tent, through the further opening of which a far reaching landscape, with an ocean view, was to be seen, with an immense tree in the foreground. Soon after nine o'clock the ballroom began to fill with masks of every conceivable character, and very lively scenes ensued in all parts of the ballroom. The dances were commenced with great zest, and continued in this style until late. As far as the decorations were concerned—which had been prepared regardless of expense—they appeared most brilliant, but more simple than on the occasion of the Arion ball. In the rear of the stage appeared the name of "Liederkranz" and a lyre in jets of gas.

THE HISTORY OF THE LIEDERKRANZ.

The Liederkranz is a rival and the parent society of the Arion. The society was organized in 1847, and is one of the oldest and most prominent German musical organizations in this country. Messrs. Jacob Windmueller, Duerr and Paur, who are still members of the society, were among the originators; but it appears that the majority of the original members have disappeared from the list. In 1861 the society obtained its charter, and in 1863 the society purchased its present headquarters in Fourth street, at a cost of thirty-two thousand dollars. The interior of the building was transformed into a splendid club hall, which at present is much frequented by artists and the members of the society. The money was raised among the members on shares. The number of members at present amounts to about nine hundred, of whom one hundred and thirty are active singers, including sixty ladies, of the male and female chorus. Connected with the society is an amateur orchestra composed of about sixty members, which has been recently organized. A singing school for young ladies, who receive gratuitous instruction, was originated by the society some years since. The financial and other affairs of the society are in a good condition.

THE DECORATIONS.

The Academy was again decorated in magnificent style and with a great deal of artistic skill, forming a combination of the grotesque and beautiful, while goblins and nondescrips with glaring eyes were looking through these decorations, which were designed to illustrate the origin of carnivalistic festivities, and were formed of a combination of Grecian and Roman architectural effects. From the box tier of the auditorium at equi-distant points rose a series of fantastically ornamented pillars—nine in number—the capitals of which were severally mounted by huge masks, tinted and formed in plaster, typifying Comus, Satyr and Medusa. Above these rested a number of gicantic swans, representing the myth, the fable, the grand, grotesque, &c. From between the necks of each pair of swans golden lilies shot upward, while from the flowers in turn rose a company of gnomes—like goblins (with movable eyes)—whose outspread emerald tinted wings produced a most wild but pleasing effect. These figures measured about five feet in height. Each gnome bore upon his bent shoulders a huge shell painted with every color of the rainbow. From the shell sprang the Goddess of Joy in very gay wood, wreathed with flowers, and grasping the staff of Momus. This was succeeded by emblematical representations of the Muses, satyrs and Bachantes. From the centre of the ceiling was suspended in every direction a vast golden net, in the baroque style, the construction of which involved the use of twenty thousand pounds of cord. Grotesque figures in countless variety were mysteriously made to float in the air beneath this glittering canopy, while directly over the centre of the floor was discovered a very large and ornamented balloon, which may or may not have been occupied upon the occasion of a recent marriage in very high life. The several pillars described were connected by garlands and festoons arching over intermediate candelabra filled with rose flowers. The stage was converted into a vast tent, through the further opening of which was seen a far reaching landscape and ocean view, with a famous tree in the foreground. A huge head of Momus surmounted the entrance to the tent. Fountains of *eau de Cologne* were variously grouped upon the stage in the midst of natural flowers. At either side of the main entrance to the ballroom was stationed a giant sphynx. Exercises on the trapeze, by a half brother to the Hanlon Brothers, formed part of the carnival performances.

A CURIOUS BULLETIN.

A bulletin, which appeared in print, furnished a humorous account of what appeared had been done to arrange the Liederkranz ball, and what was to be done. This ludicrous print gives an idea of the humor of the famous organization alluded to. It reads as follows:—

On this occasion the ancient and honorable order of the Liederkranz will spread themselves, regardless of expense, and to that end all accounts are to be referred to a thoroughly deaf auditing committee. The society have been so far influenced by the system of Yankee notions, encouraged by law, that they have taken out a patent for a new and improved process of fun making, the efficacy of which will be now tested for the first time. The method of applying the newly patented fun making principle may be briefly set forth. First, it is voted that the foudest dream of the Liederkranz be duly realized by giving a *bal masque*. The next move is to appoint a committee, whose duty is to secure the Academy of Music for nothing, if possible, and if not, to obtain it upon the stockholders' next lowest terms. This may not seem so funny to outside friends, but the society pledged their united word of honor that it is one of the grandest jokes of the age. Every member (there are nine hundred members, of which number about one hundred and fifty sing, while seven hundred and fifty have colds) presents a comic idea as the basis of the entertainment. Strange to say, this exertion does not always prove fatal. It is thought that this season the majority of the society will survive their own jokes. A committee is then selected to dine at every likely establishment between the lowest Delmonico's and Spuyten Duyvil. The committee is never heard of afterwards, and it becomes necessary to elect a caterer on whom the innermost man may rely. This is found to be Mr. Charles Schwarz, of Liederkranz Hall. Application is now made to Mr. Albrecht Ertle and Mr. Julius Ernest, artists, for practicable designs for a most elaborate and costly system of decorations, and also for plans of a regiment or two of illustrious characters for the several processions. It is next voted to procure the services of an orchestra numbering one hundred and thirty instrument artists (exclusive of dummies), under the gallant lead of Mr. A. Bernstein, who will provide music for dancing, and of Mr. Dietz, who will furnish accompaniments to the general conversation. The band will never cease playing from the opening to the close of the ball. It is hoped that the musicians will enjoy themselves. It is unanimously agreed from the first that tickets shall be scarce at fifteen greenbacks a piece. Also that no more guests shall be admitted within the Academy than the Academy will contain, as the building may be needed again. It has been decided that the police uniform cannot be considered as a fancy dress. Guests not coming in carriages will have to come on foot. Otherwise they will not be admitted. Children in arms cannot under any circumstances be admitted, unless properly masked and gagged, as there will be no lack of music.

THE PROCESSION.

The procession took place between ten and eleven, and exhibited the most ludicrous sights of the evening. Prominent in the procession was a steamer, bearing passengers from the "German Indian village of Hoboken," bound for the Academy of Music. This village is said to pride itself upon its navy and ferryboats. But it appears that navigation is not the only ambition of this brave and adventurous tribe. They have chartered a steamer, the "James Watts," which comes sailing slowly into the Academy with its precious crew on board, and it appeared that the New Jersey embassy had a good time of it before they reached the Academy. On board were a curious looking set of men, blowing pipes and horns and performing on a hand organ. And

Now does Terpsichore appear,
And "go it while she's young;"
Her dress is rather scanty,
But the poor girl means no wrong.

Then followed a series of grotesque characters, led by a number of policemen, who, it was explained, were of no use on the Broadway squad, on account of their size. Then entered a number of harlequins, playing their pranks and annoying everybody. They were followed by the Floor Committee, in gorgeous array. They all appear d to be "twins." The Liederkranz app ars to be provided with a detective; for a chap who was described as such appeared in the procession walking by the side of Brother Jonathan, and both appeared to be on the scent of somebody or something. Here appears Uncle Sam. He makes an immense spread, playing an air which is said not be sweet to Maximilian's ear, who follows him. Maximilian, it was said, cannot be permitted to stay at the Academy. Then follows a chap in long boots, who is said to represent the French Emperor, and at his side is walking the "inventress of the waterfall and crinoline." She is leading that little family arrangement called the Prince Imperial, although

He has no hair on the tip of his chin,
The place where the hair ought to grow.

This smart youth is said to have done a great many things—that he either discovered or detected the "patent beer;" that six weeks after his birth he published a dictionary in ninety-eight languages, and other nonsense. A roll of Confederate bonds are sticking out of his pocket, said to form a substitute for a pocket handkerchief. There is to be seen in the procession the Hohenzollier, who is said to be always on a spree because the capital of Prussia is situated on the Spree. There are a great many odd things said about this old king.

One old party, attended by the "faithful," is supposed to be the Pope, who appears to think that everybody is down on him. He is supported on a litter, and is followed by a mysterious person called Signor My Honey, who is acting as if he were very ferocious and inclined to devour the British lion; and then appears a personage whose reputation is said to have been manufactured from other people's brains, and by some he is called a Sardine. At the close of the procession was to be seen the "Head Scenter" in the act of shaving, shampooing and otherwise dressing the British lion, prior to swallowing him.

THE BROAD SWORD QUADRILLE.

This performance probably formed one of the most curious carnivalistic features ever seen. It is said to have been patented. Every dancer carries a drawn sword, about as "broad as it is long," to the point of which is fixed a silver bell, the silver having been furnished by the "Montana Territory Mining Company," of which several ex-oil men of Philadelphia are said to be the directors.

OPENING OF THE BALL.

Long before the appointed hour at which the numerous guests were to be admitted into the fairy realm of Prince Carnival the doors were thronged with expectant faces, the majority of which bore the characteristic expression of the German in search of fun—namely, inexhaustible good humor. At every noise from within each one was on the *qui vive* for the "open sesame" of the committee, and the wildest speculations were entertained regarding the feast which the worthy Prince had prepared for his devotees. At length the doors were opened, and the glittering throng poured in. While standing at the entrance and watching the gay pageant we were irresistibly reminded of the lines of Hood—

In they go in jackets and cloaks,
Plumes and bonnets, turbans and toques,
As if to a Congress of Nations;
Greeks and Malays with daggers and dirks,
Spaniards, Jews, Chinese and Turks,
Some like original foreign works,
And some like bad translations.

On entering, the guests disappeared for a time to certain mysterious little compartments where some arranged their masks and costumes, giving the final touches of the grotesque, romantic or beautiful, as became the character which each assumed, and others donned their habiliments of silk, muslin, tinsel or velvet.

The amphitheatre and *foyer* soon became crowded, and an imposing line of masks moved along the platform.

THE MASKS AND COSTUMES.

It was truly a congress of nations. Every clime, from the Laplander of the North to the dusky child of the torrid zone, was represented. The brutish Cossack, in his sheepskin dress, cowered beneath the lash of the Muscovite overseer and the glance of his titled master. Hungarian and Bohemian chiefs laughed the Kaiser and his myrmidons to defiance, and Neapolitan brigands did their utmost to prove that order did not reign within the newly acquired realms of Victor Emanuel. Bluff Yorkshire farmers hobnobbed with London cockneys, and Irish tenants, those *par exemplar* of suffering in the Nineteenth century, grinned facetiously at the terrible bugbear landlords and Tipperary agents, of which we have heard so much about. The veritable follower of Marco Bozzarris's scowled as ferociously as the Turk that "was dreaming of the hour" as Byron would wish him, and the rough mountaineer of Circassia waved his hand contemptuously towards the Russian invader who passed him. The peasant of Lavendee swept in disdain by the rabid disciple of Marat, Danton and Robespierre; and the Goth and Hun returned glare for glare with the haughty Roman. Indians on the war path, Indians smoking the pipe of peace, Indians in the full, hideous panoply of war, and Indians sitting around the council lodge, forgetting the scalps of the enemy, stole around the platform. Clowns and harlequins performed incredible acrobatic feats, and exerted their utmost in provoking mischief and fun. Feejee Islanders looked hungrily at fat and rosy monks and friars, while meek-eyed men glanced coyly at the many Don Pedros and Wolfe Tones that passed them. A chimney sweeper was in confidential confab with a belle of the French court, and Mephistopheles said more soft things to Marguerite than ever Gounod would have permitted. Hindoos, all of the Brahmin caste; Tartars, such as might have followed Tammerlane in his forays through China and Persia; the original Zoroaster and wild Bedouins commingled in curious affinity. The animal kingdom was also strongly represented. Wolves, cows, sheep, donkeys and other "animals" too numerous to mention kept up a hideous discord of sound. Among the thousand and one masks were to be seen nondescripts, whom it was impossible to assign to any particular species in the animal, vegetable or mineral kingdom, but who contrived to make themselves quite conspicuous amid the gay throng.

THE MUSIC AND DANCING.

The music was of that dreamy and contrasted style peculiar to Fatherland. There is something irresistibly fascinating about the German waltz and gallop. Two hundred couples spin around in automatic order, yet with a vim and dash that communicates itself to the mere spectator, and the inspiring strains of a hundred instruments send the blood in lava streams through the veins. Nodding plumes, glistening robes and gleaming armor dash by like the shifting colors of the kaleidoscope, and soft words are exchanged between angels and demons which would shock the the author of "Paradise Lost" or any other person interested in sublunary matters.

THE BALL AT ITS HEIGHT.

At one o'clock, at a signal from the orchestra, every person unmasked, and the most ludicrous *denouements* took place. Husbands who had been whispering soft nonsense into the ears of disguised wives, and prom sing to send them the most extravagant valentines, fell sheepish when the stern reality was revealed, and daughters in some cases were scolded by their grandfathers for coquetting with them. At all events, the cry was *vive la bagatelle*, and every one seemed to take the mistakes in the best of humor. The ball of the Liederkranz Society shall ever be remembered as one of good-humor and enjoyment.

SCENES OUTSIDE.

Intense cold, bright starlight, an unclouded sky, calcium lights, carriages and a crowd, conspired to render the outside scene a lively and brilliant one. The long line of carriages that formed as early as six o'clock in Irving place, and extended out toward and up Third avenue, filled with anxious and expectant occupants, presented a curious spectacle, with their frost coated windows, through which bright and longing eyes endeavored to catch a glimpse of the doorway, and the guests alighted after their two hours waiting in the cold, with chattering teeth and chilled feet. At eight o'clock precisely the doors opened and the carriage delivery commenced. Large numbers of the guests, impatient at the long delay, alighted on Fourteenth and Fifteenth streets and Third and Fourth avenues, and trotted at a sharp pace to the door. The flaggings were just as cold and cruel to the white kid slippers and delicate feet which they encased, as to the coarse boot of the sturdy-footed policemen who bade the crowd fall back and make passage for the company. Shortly after eight o'clock a splendid illumination, in the shape of calcium lights, shone out on the Fourteenth street side, discovering the crowd and the costumes of the rapidly arriving company. This brings us to

THE CROWD,

which began to assemble about eight o'clock, and seemed to be of the opinion that there was enough outside the house to make a ball of, and why not? Here was the very best opportunity to see the costumes, for they were not in mass, as it might be expected they would be inside. Each was here to be seen distinct and individually, and was commented on accordingly. With the exception of the cold, which kept the feet of the bystanders in perpetual motion, there was no drawback to the pleasures of the lookers on. Cavalier and chevalier, armored knights and kid-gloved civilians, all come in for their share of criticism, and the ladies, though in the cold, were not left there by the crowd. Not a dress escaped their curious comments, and it is not to be wondered at that the best looking ones were considered the best costumed, and were applauded on this basis. Possibly no crowd more critical, and at the same time less disposed to find other than good-natured faults, ever assembled before the doors of the Academy. As it was the pride of many of the masqueraders to cheat even their own friends in their disguise, they alighted with their masks on. This excited some most ludicrous comments. "Bill," said one of the bystanders, "that fellow couldn't fool me. I'd know him by his legs." This of a stout built gentleman in the costume of Falstaff. "That's so," said his companion. "Suppose you run to the door and tell the committee that." This created a laugh, accompanied by what would have seemed applause had not the weather suggested cold feet. A little lady in delicate feet *à la Chinoise*, and fully costumed, seemed to take the crowd by storm. "I once heard of a negro that was an Irishman," exclaimed one of the gentlemen spectators, "but I never before saw a German that was a Chinese." "My vrend, tey ish not all Shermans vot goes to dish ball," said one of the others, evidently friendly to the Liederkranz, "everypody goes here." This was an evidence of the popularity of the ball, in his mind at least. The female portion of the crowd began to dwindle away as early as ten o'clock. They staid as long as they could endure the cold. The costumes pleased them, but the fashions were, after all, their pride. The fabrics were of vastly greater importance to them than the scarlet and green, the crimson and gold, the purple and blue, and the harlequin of colors combined in the fancy dresses. Satins and silks, tulle, point lace and perfumery always did and always will take the female eye, and it was curious to observe that while the gentlemen were enthusiastic over some unusual extravagance or burlesque in the way of dress, the ladies were only profoundly agitated by a sight of the appropriate costume of the full dress ball, as displayed by one of their own sex. But this crowd, like all its predecessors, grew tired at last and withdrew, satisfied that all had been seen outside that could be, and regretting that it could not be admitted to the inner hall, where, as they felt sure from the warm gusts of air that came out from the ever opening doors, something more pleasurable to the senses that the cold night air and the constant jostling was to be experienced.

THE CARRIAGES,

as usual, were kept under admirable subjection. The drivers crowded and jammed each other somewhat, but it only required the sight of a shield and a blue coat to make everything serene and lovely. The whips have come to the conclusion that the police manage them even better than they could manage themselves, and they now yield gracefully to the arrangements which two years ago they would have scoffed at.

THE POLICE ARRANGEMENTS

outside and in were of a character to give entire satisfaction. The comfort of the guests from the moment they alighted from their carriages to their finally taking turns at the coat room was in a great degree due to the shield and baton. Captain Brackett and Sergeant Robinson, with a detail of men from the Twenty-sixth precinct, looked after the hackmen, the guests as they arrived, and the crowd. They prevented confusion, compelled the whips to obedience, kept the crowd within proper limits, and made it a real pleasure to the company to drive up and get out.

Captain Cameron, sergeant Vosburg, and a detail of men, including two detectives from the Eighteenth precinct, had charge within the ballroom. Good order was the result. The immense crowd moved in regularity and in strict obedience to the prescribed rules. Possibly so large a company was never better managed.

THE COMMITTEE ROOM.

One of the curious but seldom described features of large balls is the committee room, in which the committee and their friends, the invited guests, assembled and hold high carnival. An almost unearthly din and clatter of dishes, an incessant talking in German, English and French; constant accessions of equally constant voices, the popping of Champagne corks and the less noisy drawings of the Rhine wine, the shouts of the committee and the announcements of invited guests, all contributed to make a scene quite as worthy of note as any other. The notabilities of the ball were sure to be seen here if lost sight of elsewhere. The open sesame to the place was a small white rosette, to which were appended tri-colored ribbons. The favored few, which in this case elongated to the ingenious many, were decorated with these at the Fourteenth street door, and immediately upon being informed of the privileges to which the little badges entitled them, proceeded at once to put them to practical use. Conviviality reigned supreme here throughout the night, the larder being amply supplied and the wine, to appearance, inexhaustible.

THE END.

As the best friends must sooner or later part, so the ball, like all its predecessors, must sooner or later part with its numerous guests. It could no more be perpetual than the Arion, the Seventh Regiment, the Charity Ball, the Fire Department, or the other numerous assemblages that have adorned the Academy with their wit and beauty, their glitter and their gaieties, during the season. Before its close, however, the small hours had come. Milk wagons rattled in the streets and laboring men were just yawning from sleep and waking to their accustomed labors. The patient patrolmen still tramped steadily outside, watchful still over the interests and welfare of the guests, and the carriages rolled up in regular order, receiving the guests as they came out, and taking them on the first come first served principle, according to previous arrangement. Altogether the ball was a grand success, as well in its projection and general arrangements as in the number of its attendants, and reflects credit upon the association and the committee selected by them to carry out their programme.

First Annual Ball of Hawkins' Zouaves.

The members of Company C, First regiment, Hawkins' Zouaves, gave their first annual ball at the Germania Assembly Rooms last night. There was quite a large and select assemblage, and dancing was carried on right merrily from the hour at which the Grand March marshalled the couples on the floor, until the strain of "Home, Sweet Home" reminded the guests that a very pleasant *soirée* was drawing to a close. Of course, in the meantime there was a goodly display of handsome *toilettes*, and pretty faces and gallant chevaliers were not wanting to heighten the brilliancy of the scene. To this the reporter can only do justice by stating that the first reunion of Company C was one that was sufficiently successful to warrant the guests in wishing for a recurrence of the pleasant reunion.

The Burglars at Work.

BREAKING INTO AND ROBBING A SILK MANUFACTORY—THE BURGLARS COMMIT A MURDEROUS ASSAULT ON A NIGHT WATCHMAN, ETC.

The silk manufactory of Messrs. Hieneman & Silbermans, Nos. 417, 419 and 421 West Thirty-fifth street, was visited by burglars at a late hour on Wednesday night. Finding Edward Kroemer, the night watchman, at his post and in their way, the burglars endeavored to decoy him from the neighborhood; but without effect. There was no alternative left to the villains but to abandon their plundering scheme or reduce the watchman to silence, and they choose the latter. Accordingly they made a furious onslaught on Kroemer, beating him over the head with weapons in the most brutal manner, leaving him for dead on the sidewalk. The burglars then burst in one of the front basement windows, and, entering the premises, stole one hundred and fifty pieces of ladies' belt ribbons, two hundred dozen silk neckties, three or four bundles of dyed silk, and other articles of silk goods, valued in all at $2,500, with which they succeeded in making their escape. At a later hour the Twentieth precinct police discovered the night watchman lying insensible on the pavement, and in a few minutes afterwards the officers learned of the burglary. A physician was immediately summoned to attend Mr. Kroemer, whom he found in a very critical condition, there being serious fears about his recovery. Captain Walling, of the Twentieth precinct, and several of his officers are on the alert for the desperate burglars, and with a prospect of arresting them.

BURGLARY AND ROBBERY IN BROADWAY.

Early on Wednesday evening the tailoring establishment of Francis Probst, No. 743 Broadway, was forcibly entered through the front door and robbed of silks, satins and cloths valued in all at one thousand five hundred and ninety-one dollars. Soon afterwards a private watchman, discovering the store door open, notified Mr. Probst, and, while an examination of the premises was being made, officer O'Riley, of the Fifteenth precinct, discovered two men turning the corner of Fourth street and Lafayette place with bundles under their arms, and attempted to arrest them. One of the men threw a bundle of goods in the officer's face, partially knocking him down, whereupon they ran off in different directions. Officer O'Riley pursued one of the men to the corner of Second avenue and Second street and arrested him. The prisoner gave his name as John Morgan, and says he is twenty-five years of age. The other man escaped with a majority of the stolen goods. A portion of the silks and satins, valued at about three hundred dollars, were recovered. Justice Ledwith committed Morgan to prison for trial, in default of $2 to $10; bail was offered in sums varying from $50 to $500; Coll Piffe $6 per dozen, and all man Hair work at reduced price, at Mme. L. F. [illegible] large establishment, 942 Broadway.

[illegible] NT TO MANUFACTURERS AND INVENTORS.—A GARVIN, No. 3 Hague street, New York, made model makers, are now ready to make proposals [illegible] ng all kinds of light Machinery, Manufacturers' [illegible] els, &c. [illegible] ory references given.

[illegible] BOX MAKERS.—25,000 STEEL ENGRAVINGS [illegible] d; $10 per 1000. H. A. BROWN, 497 Broadway.

[illegible] ANTED TO RENT—FOR FROM THREE TO [illegible] nths, for which a fair price will be paid. Address [illegible] erald office.

[illegible] FATER APPARATUS FOR BOTTLERS AND [illegible] ice. Patented 1862 and 1865. A gold medal, the [illegible] remium, was awarded to these machines, in 1865. [illegible] a catalogue to WILLIAM GEE, corner of Elm and [illegible] streets, New York. Established in 1847.

[illegible] WARE.—JOHN H. MUEGGE, MANUFACTURER [illegible] of Silver Ware. Tea Sets, Goblets, Cups, Napkin [illegible] Spoons always on hand. 200 Centre street, New [illegible] ch floor.

[illegible] AMEL OF AMERICA, [illegible] PREPARATION FOR BEAUTIFYING [illegible] THE COMPLEXION. [illegible] ted to be PERFECTLY HARMLESS, [illegible] the skin as smooth as ivory in ten minutes, or [illegible] will never fail to remove all roughness from the [illegible] ...MOND, Va., Feb. 15, 1866.

Governor Pierpoint sent a communication to the Legislature to-day nominating three judges of the Court of Appeals and fifteen circuit judges. The nominations are generally approved by the conservative members of the Legislature; but a decided opposition to one or two names was anticipated.

The Committee on Courts in the House of Delegates, to whom was referred the resolution requesting Senator Underwood to resign, reported a substitute to-day declaring that his effort to procure the overthrow of the State government was wholly inconsistent with the duties of his position, and meets unqualified reprobation. The General Assembly took no action.

The House decided to-day that the Adjutant General of the Commonwealth, heretofore appointed by the Governor, should be elected by the General Assembly.

The Newark and New York Railroad Bill.

TRENTON, Feb. 15, 1866.

The Newark and New York Railroad bill passed the House this morning by a vote of 31 to 21. The result was received with great applause. A motion to reconsider the vote was this afternoon lost.

Four Persons Drowned.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 15, 1866.

Four well known citizens of Evansville, Indiana, were drowned yesterday while crossing the river in a skiff at that point.

Supreme Court—Chambers.

Nicholas Henry et al. vs. Isidore Henry et al.—The report of the referee in this case was confirmed, and judgment granted.

Peter Clark vs. Henry M. Farlan et al.—In this case the motion was granted on the payment of costs, and a stay of proceedings until the May term was also granted.

Thomas Roberts et al. vs. John Kerr et al.—In this case the motion was denied, on the strength of several decisions of the General Term, recorded in Howard's Reports, which are deemed conclusive.

In the case of William H. Hacker vs. Elias Scaffergood et al., the motion to open default was denied.

In the case of the People ex rel. Amos Herrick vs. M. T. Brennan, a motion for mandamus was granted.

DISASTROUS FIRE.

The City Assembly Rooms and American Theatre Destroyed.

ORIGIN OF THE FIRE.

SKETCH OF THE BUILDINGS.

THE LOSSES AND INSURANCES.

SCENES AND INCIDENTS.

&c. &c. &c.

The City Assembly Rooms and the American theatre were yesterday destroyed by fire. The buildings were situated on Broadway, between Howard and Grand streets. The fire resulted in the complete destruction of the premises. The loss is estimated at about two hundred thousand dollars. The fire broke out about half-past eleven A. M., and was extinguished in about three hours.

ORIGIN OF THE FIRE.

The flames, it is supposed, broke out in the saloon of the theatre, and were first discovered by some women who had been engaged to cleanse the floor of the dancing hall, in preparation for the ball of the Highland regiment, which was to have taken place there last evening. They attempted to put out the incipient conflagration by throwing pails full of water upon it, but without success, it having thus early gained too great headway to be visibly affected by their ancient but not extremely efficacious fire department. Something more was needed, and the alarm which the women sounded soon brought the required assistance to the place. And still the Metropolitans were not able to save the edifice or its valuable contents. Another statement has it that the fire was caused by a stovepipe in the property room, becoming detached from the thimble through which it passed to the chimney flue, communicated the spark to the light and inflammable materials collected there, and that the men in the theatre, although they tried hard to do so, were unable to extinguish the fire. Some mistake in the fittings of the hose pipe to the hydrant prevented them from at once putting in use the appliances furnished expressly for such emergencies. Of course all the stage properties of the theatre, with the wardrobes of the actors and actresses, were quickly consumed.

SPREADING OF THE FLAMES.

While the attaches of the theatre and persons attracted by curiosity to the spot were busily engaged in saving such property as they could carry out, the insatiable fire fiend within the building did not rest. Licking up, as with a single movement of its all-consuming tongue, the combustible wings, flats and drops of the stage, it rushed its way into the floors, the surrounding wood work and the seats of the auditorium. Thence it glided towards the ceilings, and then through these climbed upon invisible ladders to the dancing room, only to penetrate, after a brief period, to the roof, and to burst out from cranny and corner into the full light of day. This once accomplished, the flames had it nearly all their own way. The water thrown upon them seemed only to make them more ravenous and destructive. The wind catching them, bore them aloft, and continued until new material was reached to be consumed. Hotter and hotter grew the seven times heated furnace below, upon which, by this time, the brave firemen were throwing a dozen different streams. Working toward Crosby street, it was in less than an hour evident that the rear walls of the building must inevitably give way, and preparations were made to prevent any accident occurring. A portion of this wall did fall at about twelve o'clock. It gave the firemen an entrance and the heat an exit, which eventually brought about the conquering of the element, which was accomplished at about three o'clock in the afternoon.

THE CITY ASSEMBLY ROOMS.

Alker's Rooms, better known as the City Assembly Rooms, were built in 1856, by G. W. Miller, on the site of the former building destroyed by fire on the 24 of December, 1854. They consisted of a splendid ball room, spacious supper, dressing and retiring rooms. The ball room was certainly the finest one in the city. In addition to its dimensions, which were very large, the floor was the best for dancing in the country. It