FORGERY AND EMBEZZLEMENT.

Hunt After an Alleged Forger of Bonded Warehouse Certificates.

His Arrest at Rochester by a New York Detective.

THE FRAUDS UPON THE IRVING BANK.

Confession of the Embezzler—Recovery of Forty Thousand Dollars.

&c. &c. &c.

The Forgeries on Bonded Warehouses in Wall Street.

There was arrested in Rochester on Wednesday last, by detective Timothy Golden, from this city, a man who gave his name as John G. Beck, but whose real name is stated to be E. K. Howe. He has, it is believed, passed under half a dozen aliases. This individual is charged with having been concerned in the forgeries of bonded warehouse certificates by which mercantile men in Wall street have been swindled out of $300,000. In this transaction several persons are implicated, and it is supposed by those who know the details of the case that Howe was used as an agent by others for the accomplishment of their plans, and that in order to screen him from arrest they have been moving him from place to place in the country. The efforts to capture him have cost a large sum of money. One of the parties charged with the forgeries was found in a lunatic asylum in France, and brought back to New York. He had spent $100,000 of the $150,000 which he took to Europe with him.

The arrest of Howe in Rochester appears to have been effected in this manner:—Police officer McLean was authorized by Chief Sherman to render assistance to Golden in looking out for the person he wanted. It had been ascertained that Howe was living in the Twelfth ward with his family. McLean, who was dressed in uniform, went to the rear of Howe's house while detective Rogers entered it, found the owner at home and arrested him. While being taken to the police office Howe met Golden, who called him by his name. This disconcerted the prisoner very much. Golden informed him that he was an officer from New York, and that he must take him there to answer the charge of having been concerned with others in the forgeries above alluded to. Howe was brought to this city by Golden on the 4:50 train in half an hour after the arrest had been effected. The prisoner was known in Rochester under the name of Beck. He was regarded there as a man of inoffensive, peaceable habits. He seemed always to be well off, and his family lived comfortably. He stated that he had been engaged as a pilot in the harbor of New York, from which he had only very recently returned to Rochester.

The Irving Bank Embezzlement

The following are the particulars respecting the embezzlement of $60,000 from the Irving Bank, situated at the corner of Greenwich and Warren streets. Rumors respecting this affair had been in circulation through town during the past two or three days. For some time past one of the bookkeepers, a young man who is respectably and, it is said, highly connected, had attracted the attention of the President and officers of the bank by his extravagant habits. About the 6th of April the President discovered that the bookkeeper was somewhat irregular in the discharge of his duty, contrary to the good character he had before borne for punctuality and attention. At first the President was under the impression that this departure from duty on the part of his subordinate resulted principally from indulgence in liquor. The young man had previously left on account of sickness, but no suspicions of dishonesty were entertained regarding him until Tuesday last, when, the bookkeeper being absent, owing to illness, another, who was put in his place, discovered a deficiency of $60,000 in the accounts of his predecessor. Just before this discovery was made the President of the bank called at the office of Superintendent Warren, of the Fire Insurance and Mercantile Detective Agency, No. 68 Broadway, stated the whole of the circumstances, and consulted with him as to what could be done in the matter. Mr. Warren placed the business in the hands of two detectives, Haynes and Foley, who obtained evidence to show that there was something decidedly wrong in the conduct of the young man, who was at once arrested. He confessed that for years he had been in collusion with an outside party in a systematic fraud, by which he was enabled to give him credits for amounts never deposited and record his checks without charging them. Of the sum thus taken ten thousand dollars in money and the balance in diamonds and other property have been recovered from the bookkeeper, and it is believed the remainder can be had from the outside party, who is also in custody. The bank accounts were thoroughly investigated. The first deficiency discovered was one of $12,000, and upon further investigation a defalcation of $55,000 was ascertained. The embezzlements were effected by making "forced" balances. The officers of the bank, in consideration of the connections of the parties concerned, desired the suppression of names. The bank, it is believed, will lose nothing, and to the activity of the President of the establishment may be attributed this fortunate result. The bookkeeper has been in the employ of the bank for eleven years.

How Divorce Cases Are Engineered—An Attorney Rebuked.

SUPREME COURT.

Before Judge Barnard.

Kate A. Wilson vs. James T. Wilson.—This case came up yesterday for argument on a motion to set aside the decree of divorce which was alleged to have been obtained by fraud and collusion on the part of the attorney who appeared for the plaintiff. It was argued that by false representations he had obtained from Mrs. Wilson, otherwise Miss Kate Busteed, authority to commence proceedings. When she discovered the nature of it she revoked the authority and forbade him to act under it, in the meantime having discovered James T. Wilson, whom she had married, to be a married man, having a wife residing at Bristol, England. Notwithstanding the revocation it appears that the attorney proceeded with the action, obtained an order of reference, supplied the evidence of acts of adultery on the part of the defendant, and obtained a decree of divorce in favor of the lady, all which she was ignorant of until she saw it announced in the newspapers. She being a minor, these proceedings were instituted in the name of her father, W. H. Busteed, as guardian.

After argument Judge Barnard directed an order to be entered setting aside the decree of divorce and all proceedings under it, and also that the counsel for Miss Busteed should bring the matter of the misconduct of the attorney before the next general term in June, and have the name of the lawyer stricken from the roll of attorneys.

Mr. James, one of the counsel for the plaintiff, stated that he did not desire it to be understood that he made any motion to strike this name from the roll.

Judge Barnard said it was on his own motion, but directed that Mr. Edwin James' firm, as counsellors of the Supreme Court, should bring it before the General Term, whereupon the Judge made the following order:—

On the proceedings in the case of Kate A. Wilson against James T. Wilson, in which Thomas J. E. Stowell, noted as attorney for the plaintiff, it is, on motion of this honorable Court, ordered, that Edwin James and Dunphy, Esqs., as Counsellors of this Court, present to the next General Term of this Court the statement of the alleged misconduct of Thomas J. E. Stowell, an alleged attorney of this Court, in his professional capacity and serve upon him such statement (verified), and call upon him to answer such charges before the said General Term, or show cause why he shall not be stricken from the roll of attorneys of this Court, and forever hereafter to be debarred from acting as attorney or counsel in any of the Courts of this State.

GEORGE G. BARNARD, Justice Supreme Court.

ORDER SETTING ASIDE DECREE OF DIVORCE.

On the pleadings, proceedings and judgment roll filed in this case, and on hearing counsel for the respective parties, it is ordered that the judgment, decree and the report of the referee filed herein, 15th May, instant, herein be set aside, vacated and annulled, and that the parties hereto be restored to the same condition as they held prior to the granting of said decree, &c.

GEORGE G. BARNARD, Justice Supreme Court.

Who Burned Columbia?

[From the Columbia, S. C., Phœnix, May 22.]

A Columbia correspondent of the New York *Evening Post* writes to that paper that one W. B. Nash made an affidavit that he saw the South Carolina Railroad depot burning and some cotton fired, before General Sherman's army entered the city; upon which the whole horde of radical papers have opened their mouths, denouncing General Hampton as the incendiary who destroyed his own beautiful city.

To show the utter falsity of these statements, we called upon W. B. Nash yesterday, and received from him the following affidavit, which demolishes the testimony of the *Post*. The conversation he had was with a Dr. Ruff, connected with the Freedmen's Bureau, and he distinctly and emphatically said that he told this officer that General Sherman burned the city of Columbia; that his men set fire to his own house, which, with the assistance of friends, was extinguished. Beverly was perfectly indignant at the use made of his name, and at the mutilation of his mere statement and the falsehood that he had made an affidavit. Here is now his solemn declaration under oath:—

State of South Carolina, Richland District.—Personally appeared before me W. B. Nash, who, being duly sworn, says that he never made an affidavit in relation to the burning of Columbia; that he made a statement of the blowing up of the depot, by accident, and that a few bales of cotton were burned by private parties, to an officer connected with the Freedmen's Bureau. Deponent further states that General Sherman, or men acting under his permission, burned the city of Columbia, and that General Hampton had nothing to do with the nefarious transaction. W. B. NASH.

Sworn to before me this 21st day of May, A. D., 1866.

W. B. JOHNSTON, Magistrate.

JEFF DAVIS.

The Points of Law Involved in His Trial.

[From the Washington Intelligencer, May 25.]

The recent references to the trial of Mr. Davis have called public attention to this subject, which very naturally in a large degree interests the public mind. The indictment, in the usual form for treason, has been found by the Grand Jury, in the United States Circuit Court, at Norfolk. Mr. Davis is indicted under the act of 1790, under which the penalty, on conviction, is death. He could have been indicted under the act of July 31, 1861, for a seditious conspiracy, the punishment of which is a fine, not over $5,000, and imprisonment, with or without hard labor, not over six years. One of the most important points is the drawing of the petit jury who are charged with the trial of the prisoner. The jury is to be drawn according to lot or otherwise, according to the mode practised in the State for selecting juries for the highest courts of law. The number of jurors to be summoned is left to the discretion of the Court, as at common law. The act of July 16, 1862, repeals so much of the act of 1790 as requires in cases punishable with death that twelve petit jurors be summoned from the county where the offence was committed. Under the act of June 17, 1862, no person is allowed to sit on the jury who was in any degree of complicity with the rebellion. This is an act of controlling importance, because it insures that the trial shall be before a loyal jury. Mr. Davis cannot be tried by any of his confederates. His fate will rest entirely with his political opponents. The jury must be unanimous, or there can be no verdict. This is the invariable rule of the common law, and has existed time whereof the memory of man runneth not to the contrary. The presiding judge can rule authoritatively on questions of evidence as they may arise in the progress of the trial; but as the jury always, in criminal cases, return a general verdict of guilty or not guilty, they are practically the judges of the law as well as the fact, and there is no appeal from their decision. There has never been any exception to this principle in the common law, except that in cases of libel it had frequently been determined by the Court of King's Bench that the only question for the consideration of the jury in criminal prosecutions for libel was the fact of publication and the truth of the innuendoes, and that the Court alone was competent to determine whether the subject of the publication was or was not a libel. And it was for this ruling of Lord Mansfield that the celebrated Junius so bitterly attacked Lord Mansfield. Lord Camden, the friend of liberty, differed from Lord Mansfield, and the matter was finally put to rest by the memorable act of Parliament 32, George III., known as Mr. Fox's act, which determined the law against Lord Mansfield's judgment, by expressly recognizing the right of the jury to determine the facts and law of the case by a general verdict of guilty or not guilty.

The trial can only end in one of three ways:—1. By verdict of guilty. 2. By verdict of not guilty. 3. By the inability of the jury to agree.

In the event of this third alternative arising the first question which will arise is whether Mr. Davis will be entitled to bail. The constitution provides that "in all criminal prosecutions the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial." In determining whether Mr. Davis, after more than a year's close imprisonment, would be entitled, in the event of the disagreement of the jury, to be discharged on bail, would be a question of legal discretion, to be determined by the judge. By the celebrated Habeas Corpus act of 31 Charles II., it was provided, sixth, "that every person committed for treason or felony, shall, if he require it, the first week of the next term, or the first day of the next session of Oyer and Terminer, be indicted in that term or session, or else admitted to bail, unless the king's witnesses cannot be produced; and if not indicted and tried in the second term or session, he shall be discharged from his imprisonment for such imputed offence."

It is not likely our judges would take a less favorable view of the prisoner's application than in the rule furnished by this statute. The serious question would be, how many terms of the court have passed since the prisoner was first arrested? His counsel would in all probability contend that by intendment of law United States courts were holding their regular terms for the last twelve months in the State of Virginia, or at least might have done so. A further provision of the constitution might perhaps also, in the event of a disagreement of the jury, be invoked in behalf of the prisoner—that one which sets forth as follows:—"Nor shall any person be subject, for the same offence, to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb." The meaning of this rule is, that a defendant is in legal jeopardy the moment a petit jury is charged with the decision of his case. But though there has been some difference of opinion on the point, it may be assumed that when the jury are discharged from the further and final decision of the case, because of their inability to agree, the prisoner may be held to be tried anew. At one time in England, where the jury could not agree on a capital case, the judge, instead of discharging them at the end of the term, had them carted around the circuit with him. This practice, however, is exploded. In case, then, of the inability of the jury to agree, the utmost the prisoner could ask, from that fact alone, would be the right to be out of prison on bail.

Jeff Davis Allowed the Freedom of Fortress Monroe.

FORTRESS MONROE, May 25, 1866.

Instructions from Washington were received this morning by Major General Miles to give Jeff Davis, on his parole, the freedom of the fort, retiring to his room at Carroll Hall at night. Messrs. Shea and O'Conor, his counsel, have been allowed access to the fort and private interviews with him at any time.

Mrs. Davis in Washington.

WASHINGTON, May 25, 1866.

The advent of Mrs. Davis in the city yesterday morning created quite a sensation in certain circles of Washington society. Though ostensibly stopping at the Ebbitt House she is in reality the guest of Dr. Miller. Calls upon her have been frequent and almost constant at all hours of the day since her arrival became known. She yesterday morning addressed a note to President Johnson requesting the favor of an interview. An answer was received this evening, when she visited the White House in person, and stated the object of her visit to the President in a private conversation. Its purport is precisely what was foreshadowed in yesterday's HERALD. She states that the health of Mr. Davis is rapidly declining, and pleads urgently for some amelioration of his rigorous confinement. The President informed her that an order had already been made allowing Mr. Davis the liberty of the entire grounds of the fortress without the strict surveillance that has heretofore been exercised towards him. It is not known that she asked for his liberation upon parole, and it is quite certain that no such request would have been seriously entertained, much less granted. The stories currently reported on the street this morning, that the Attorney General called upon her, at the residence of Dr. Miller, in relation to Mr. Davis' trial, are without any foundation whatever. She has had no communication with him, directly or indirectly, since her arrival in the city.

Court of General Sessions.

Before Judge Russel.

SENTENCES.

Before the calendar was called the City Judge sentenced the prisoners who were remanded during the week.

John Vernon, who was indicted for murder, but who pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the third degree, having caused the death of a boy named Wm. Pigott, was sent to the State Prison for four years.

George Davis, convicted of obtaining goods by false pretences, was sentenced to three years' imprisonment in the State Prison.

James Riley and Wm. Mahoney, pickpockets, who stole a pocketbook from Mrs. Sherman, and Wm. O'Brien, guilty of an attempt at burglary in the third degree, were each sent to the State Prison for two years and six months.

Peter A. Burley, who pleaded guilty to an assault with a dangerous weapon upon John W. Burley, was sent to the Penitentiary for one year.

The Court suspended judgment in a number of cases where the circumstances were such as to warrant such a course.

GRAND LARCENY.

Margaret Kennedy, charged with stealing twenty-seven yards of cloth, worth forty dollars, the property of Conrad Diller, pleaded guilty to an attempt at grand larceny. She was sent to the Penitentiary for one year.

William Woods, alias Stockton, indicted for stealing a coat worth thirty dollars from James Dougherty, pleaded guilty to petty larceny. This prisoner, his Honor said, was a well known hotel thief, and a short time since escaped conviction for burglary in consequence of a legal technicality. He was sent to the Penitentiary for six months and fined one hundred dollars.

ASSAULT UPON AN OFFICER.

John Cooley, John Kelly and James Cooley pleaded guilty to an assault upon officer W. B. Nixon.

BURGLARY.

James Curran, indicted for burglary in the third degree, being concerned in breaking into the pawn shop of Valentine Koon on the night of the 23d of March, when over two thousand dollars' worth of property was stolen, pleaded guilty to an attempt to commit that offence. These prisoners were remanded for sentence.

ALLEGED STEALING OF A HORSE—A METROPOLITAN POLICEMAN CHARGED WITH SUBORNING WITNESSES TO PROCURE THE CONVICTION OF THE ACCUSED—AN EXCITING SCENE IN COURT, ETC.

The only case disposed of by the jury was an indictment against George Rothenel, for stealing a horse worth two hundred and fifty dollars from the stable of Patrick Kenny, in West Thirty-third street, on the 11th of February, on the trial of which some startling discoveries were made. The complainant said that, from information received in reply to an advertisement offering a reward of fifty dollars, for the recovery of the horse, he and officer William Smith arrested the prisoner in Forsyth street, and on bringing him to the station house he admitted that he took the horse in Williamsburg for one hundred and forty-eight dollars; but a cross examination of the witness brought out the fact that he promised him (the prisoner) his liberty if he could get his horse, so that the Court excluded the testimony. Two other witnesses were examined, but their testimony did not implicate the accused. It appeared then publicly stated that he had several respectable witnesses in court to prove that officer William Smith offered them money to come and swear the stealing of the horse upon Rothenel.

Mary Brown swore that officer Smith came to her house and said if she would swear the stealing of the horse upon that man (the accused) he would give her ten dollars.

Assistant District Attorney Bedford then called officer Smith to answer to the charge. He denied under oath that he ever offered the girl any money, but admitted that he saw her in a house of prostitution in Chatham street when five persons were present. He had asked her to tell Rothenel that he would give him his liberty if he would tell him where the horse was. The officer denied that he offered James Kamansky twenty dollars to be a witness and said he did not know him.

The Judge remarked that there was nothing proven, and the jury rendered a verdict of not guilty without leaving their seats. The prisoner left the bar and had not reached the door when officer Smith rearrested him—a proceeding which stirred the mercurial disposition of his counsel, who in a very excited manner rushed toward the bar and informed the Judge of the fact. Smith, in answer to a question propounded by the Court as to why he took Rothenel in custody, in even a more excited manner than the defender of Rothenel's liberty, flourished a paper and said that he did so by authority of the United States government, on the ground that the prisoner was a deserter from the army and a robber of horses. Judge Russel administered a severe reprimand to Smith, warning him not to lay violent hands upon Rothenel, and at the same time commanding the accused to go free. As Smith was leaving the court room a distinguished practitioner at the bar vociferated in stentorian tones that Smith stole a horse from a client of his. This announcement, of course, gave additional interest to the exciting scene which was transpiring, much to the gratification of the spectators. The lawyer referred to gave a fuller explanation of the matter, but it is not prudent to publish the *ex parte* statement. Smith gesticulated violently; counsel for Rothenel was moved to make another speech; Judge Russel didn't want to hear it, and for a few moments the commotion was so great that if an outsider should have happened to enter the court room at that particular juncture he might readily conclude that he was ushered into bedlam rather than into a temple of justice.

Judge Russel intimated to the counsel that he should take steps to have officer Smith suspended by the Police Commissioners. He stated that the necessary affidavits of several respectable witnesses would be prepared immediately to procure an indictment for suborning to perjury, which would be fraught with more serious consequences to the officer than suspension from the force.

Mr. Spinner on the National Bank Currency.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

My attention has been called to an editorial article which appeared in THE NEW YORK HERALD of Friday, the 18th inst., headed "Mr. Spinner's Luminous Views on the National Bank Currency," being a criticism on my letter of the 16th inst. to the Cashier of the Merchants' National Bank of Memphis, Tenn. I see, which article, by its numerous direct questions to me, seems to invite an answer. That it would have been more just to me to have printed, in connection with your comments, the whole of my letter, and that I have reason for complaint that this was not done I think you will admit, upon a perusal of the letter and article in question. But, waiving all matters of a personal character, my main object in answering objections that may be urged by the press, from whatsoever motives, to the national banking system, is to advertise to the people the fact, viz: that in national bank notes we have the best secured bank paper circulating medium that has ever been devised.

The HERALD makes an issue with the remark that the notes of a national bank that has failed are "rather better than those of a bank in good standing;" but my explanation as to why they are better was not given, to wit, "if away from the business marts or commercial centres of the country, for the reason that the Treasurer of the United States becomes the cashier of such defaulting bank, and will, through his assistants and all other government officers, redeem such circulation." If the circulating notes of a bank in good standing must be sent to some distant place for redemption, the notes of a defaulting bank, being redeemable at over four hundred different government offices scattered throughout the country, at their face value, are obviously "rather better than those of a bank in good standing." Your article further says:—

Mr. Spinner's correspondent asks a very pertinent question, upon which the Treasurer does not throw much light. He inquires what security the noteholders would have in the event of the banks failing, and the bonds deposited should not realize enough to redeem the circulation in consequence of the decline in the securities. Is the government bound to redeem the notes at par, notwithstanding the bonds deposited should not realize a sufficient sum with which to redeem them? That is the question. Mr. Spinner does not answer it directly. He simply says the government has a first and permanent (by me written "paramount") lien upon all the assets of a defaulting bank, to supply the deficiency. But, Mr. Spinner, suppose there were no assets—and it is not likely there would be, in a general panic or smash-up—would the United States be bound to make up the deficiency out of the Treasury? That is the question the correspondent put, and the question which has not been answered.

You subsequently remark:—

If we rightly remember the act creating these banks, the government is not bound to the note holders beyond what it can realize out of the banks. No Congress could be stupid enough, surely, to pass a law making it responsible beyond that. * * * With all respect to Mr. Treasurer Spinner, we think the legal tender is better and more secure than the national bank note; for the government is bound for that to its full value, whatever crisis may come.

Now, I did answer the question of my correspondent, which you state in the above quotation that I failed to answer, and the reply was in these words: "I therefore answer this question affirmatively."

As to the law creating this system and providing for the redemption of national bank notes, it does appear from your statement of it that a "more luminous" exposition than has been given by either of us might be acceptable to noteholders. In the forty-seventh section of the National Currency act it is provided that in case of the failure of a national bank "the Comptroller shall declare the United States bonds and securities pledged by such association forfeited to the United States, and the same shall thereupon be forfeited accordingly; and thereupon the Comptroller shall immediately give notice, in such manner as the Secretary of the Treasury shall, by general rules or otherwise, direct, to the holders of the circulating notes of such association, to present them for payment at the treasury of the United States, and the same shall be paid as presented in the lawful money of the United States. * * * And for any deficiency in the proceeds of the bonds pledged by such association the United States shall have a first and paramount lien upon all assets of such association."

It is quite clear enough that the notes of a national bank in liquidation are liabilities of the government and are redeemable at sight by each and all of the hundreds of designated depositaries of the United States; and most people in commercial circles understand this liability of and certainty of redemption by the government. The United States is therefore clearly legally bound to redeem every dollar of the circulation of a defaulting national bank. The government virtually undertakes that its six per cent gold interest bearing bonds—and any other of its bonds made of equivalent value—deposited by national banks to secure the redemption of their circulating notes shall not depreciate more than the difference between such par value of the bonds at which they are received and the lesser amount of circulating notes issued to the bank thereon, and that if they do the government guarantees to make good the deficiency to the noteholder. It agrees to redeem all such notes from its own funds in the Treasury at par, and this, too, whether the securities deposited for that purpose, with the sums that may be afterwards realized from the assets of such defaulting banks, shall be sufficient or not. In other words, the government does not act in the capacity of a joint trustee of the national banks and the holders of their notes to pay the latter such sums as it may realize from the sale of the securities of the former; but it stands as the perfectly secured endorser of every circulating note issued by a national bank. The fact that all national bank notes are a legal tender to the government for all dues except customs would be sufficient to establish this liability, even if there had been no positive enactment of a mandatory character, such as is contained in section forty-seven of the law above quoted. Such is the opinion of the honorable secretary of the Treasury, the honorable Comptroller of the Currency, and of every other person with whom I have conversed who has given the matter attention.

In this connection I desire to state another fact not generally understood; that is, that on account of the personal liability clause in the act on the failure of a national bank the whole "capital stock" of the bank, from a "liability" of the bank to its stockholders, immediately becomes an "asset" to its creditors.

As an example, showing public faith in commercial circles and among all classes in the security of the system, and how this matter is understood and how it works, I instance the case of the First National Bank of Attica, New York, which failed more than fourteen months since. Notice was immediately given, in every possible way, that the circulating notes of that institution would be redeemed by all government depositaries on presentation; yet to-day the avails of the secured interest alone on the government securities pledged for the redemption of those notes exceeds by over one thousand dollars the amount of the notes of that bank as yet presented for redemption.

It will not take long at this rate to redeem the whole circulation of this bank, without touching the principal of the securities deposited for that purpose or any other assets of the defaulting bank. It is therefore asserted that after a national bank fails to redeem its circulating notes the security to the noteholder of such bank thereupon becomes precisely that of a holder of the legal tender notes of the United States.

Hoping that I have made myself understood, and that every question put to me in the letter referred to or in your article has now been satisfactorily answered, and with full faith that you will in future do justice to me and the subject right in the eyes of the public, I am, very respectfully, yours, J. S. SPINNER,

Treasurer United States.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 23, 1866.

News from Rio Janeiro.

UNITED STATES VESSELS IN PORT—COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE, ETC.

BALTIMORE, May 25, 1866.

The bark Agnes from Rio Janeiro, April 15, has arrived. She brings no later news than has already been received from the Rio Plata.

At Rio Janeiro April 15, the United States ships Shamokin, Crosby, from Bahia; Shenandoah, Goldsborough and Onward.

There have been no charters of vessels for the United States since the departure of the last steamer.

Baltimore flour, $24; other descriptions, $21 a $23. Exchange, 90.

General Grant Reviews the Situation.

The editor of the Lewiston (Me.) *Journal* reports in his paper the opinions of General Grant on the state of the country, ascertained by an hour's conversation with the [illegible] at the studio of Simmons, the artist, in Washington:—

The General, who was dressed in a plain black civilian suit, had hardly removed his hat from his head before he took a cigar from his pocket, lighted it and began to puff out wreaths of smoke. "I am breaking off from smoking," remarked Grant; "when I was in the field I smoked eighteen or twenty cigars a day, but now I smoke only nine or ten."

The conversation turned to the Virginia campaigns of 1864 and 1865. "I notice," remarked General Grant, "that Mr. Swinton has published a history of the campaigns in the Old Dominion, in which he takes the ground that I gained nothing, but, on the contrary, lost many valuable lives uselessly by moving my army from the Rapidan direct towards Richmond, rather than by taking it around by water to the Peninsula as McClellan did. This," observed the General, "is a revival of the exploded theory [referring to the McClellan policy] of subduing the rebellion by peace measures. A half a million troops might have been kept within sight of Washington till doomsday, and the rebellion would have flourished more and more vigorously day by day. Fighting, hard knocks only, could have accomplished the work. The rebellion must be overcome, if overcome at all, by force; its resources destroyed; its fighting material obliterated, before peace could be obtained."

"There were but two failures in the Virginia campaign of '64 which ought to have been successes," said Grant, "and those were the failure to capture Petersburg when we crossed the James, and afterwards at the mine explosion. But," added Grant, "it was all for the best that we failed in those two instances, for, had we succeeded at either time, Lee would have at once been obliged to abandon Richmond, and would have been able to secure a safe retreat into the interior of the South, where he would have prolonged the contest for years. Our failures then and the determination of the rebels to hold on to their capital gave us time to extend our left southward, to bring up Sherman from Georgia, and thereby made it impossible for Lee to escape."

In reply to a question as to whether he was not surprised at the suddenness of the collapse of the rebellion, Grant said that he was, although he had always supposed that when it did break down it would go all at once. "I thought, however," he remarked, "that it would hold out another season, and I am not sure," he added, "but that it would have been better for the country if it had. There were some parts of the country where our armies had never trod, particularly Texas, which needed to feel the blighting effects of war to bring their people to a realizing sense of the enormity of their crime and the necessity of a thorough repentance. I find," said he, "that those parts of the South which have not felt the war, and particularly those which have been within our lines and have therefore escaped the rebel conscription and taxes, are much less disposed to accept the situation in good faith than those portions which have been literally overrun with fire and sword."

Referring to the temper of the Southern people, he remarked that they are much less disposed now to bring themselves to the proper frame of mind that they were one year since. "A year ago," said he, "they were willing to do anything; now they regard themselves as martyrs of the situation. Some of the rebel generals," he added, "are behaving nobly, and doing all they can to induce the people to throw aside their old prejudices and to conform their course to the changed condition of things. Johnston and Dick Taylor particularly are exercising a good influence; but," he added, "Lee is behaving badly." He is conducting himself very differently from what I had reason, from what he said at the time of the surrender, to suppose he would. No man at the South is capable of exercising a tenth part of the influence for good that he is, but instead of using it he is setting an example of forced acquiescence so grudging and pernicious in its effects as to be hardly realized."

"The men who were in the rebel armies," said Grant, "acquiesce in the result much better than those who staid at home. The women are particularly bitter against the Union and Union men. Of course," he added, "there is some bitterness of feeling among all classes, but I am satisfied it would soon die out if their leading men had not somehow got the idea that treason, after all, was not very bad, and that the 'Southern cause,' as they phrase it, will yet triumph, not in war, but in politics. In my judgment," said Grant, "the sons of certain men and certain papers at the North is such as to do incalculable mischief in making the late rebels believe that they are just as much entitled to rule as ever, and that if they will only stand by what they are pleased to call their 'rights,' they will have help from the North. This," he significantly added Grant, "is only playing over again the incipient stages of the rebellion. He was confident that the large majority of the Southern people would smother their resentments and become good citizens, if these mischief makers at the North (the copperheads) would only let them alone. For himself, if he had the power, the first thing he would do would be to seize the New York *News* and kindred sheets, which are giving the South so dangerous an idea of their own position and 'rights.'"

"Troops," said General Grant, "must be kept in all the principal points in the South for some time to come. This will be necessary to repress the turbulence of a class of the South very dangerous to all well disposed persons, and also to protect the rights of the freedmen, who are looked upon with deep hatred by a very large proportion of the people. I am in favor, however," he added, "of not retaining our volunteers for this duty, because they very naturally think that they fulfilled their engagement one year since."

Grant spoke in high terms of Sherman, Sheridan, Howard and other generals, and referred to our Mexican difficulties, forcibly adding that he believed the French invasion of Mexico a part of the rebellion, and he should have been glad to have seen a detachment of our army sent there one year since. He would engage that Sheridan, with plenty of arms and two thousand American troops and a goodly number of American officers, would with the aid of the Mexicans, clean Maximilian out of Mexico in six months.

Amusements.

THE MATINEES TO-DAY.

Several attractive matinee performances have been arranged for this afternoon in this city and Brooklyn. The seasonable hour at which these entertainments conclude renders the enterprise very agreeable to ladies, visitors from the country and children.

The last Menken matinee commences at the Broadway theatre at the usual hour. Miss Adah Isaacs Menken will make her last appearance during her present engagement on this occasion. The lady will be supported by the entire company of the Broadway in one of her popular personations.

Tony Pastor's matinee opens at his Opera House, in the Bowery, at half-past two o'clock. The Irish drama Hooligan, the Poet, is on the bills, and Carleton promises some of his Irish songs. Ballet, the Zouave drill and dances follow.

George Christy's matinee opens at the new Fifth Avenue Opera House at two o'clock. The programme has had a success during the week, attracting fashionable audiences.

A grand matinee, with musical and optical entertainments, will be given at two o'clock, in Irving Hall, under the direction of the officers of the institution, for the benefit of the orphans of our deceased and disabled soldiers.

The Alleghanians, vocalists and bell players, give a matinee entertainment at the Brooklyn Athenæum, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

CHANFRAU IN BROOKLYN.

It may seem a Hibernicism to state that the "Streets of New York" were in Brooklyn last night at the Academy of Music; but the presence of the above favorite comedian and Mr. C. T. Parsloe, Jr., under the management of Mr. Tayleure, will explain the fact. This thoroughly sensational drama is probably one of the best mediums for displaying Messrs. Chanfrau and Parsloe's peculiar abilities, and was very well placed upon the stage last night. The rough but shrewd Californian, and the merry and mischievous boot black, the Broadway belles, the benevolent baker and his fussy little wife, the distressed family of the Fairweathers, who seemed to be tossed about by all the winds of misfortune, and the other representatives of New York in the olden time, were in general successful. The exigencies of the drama obliged the Fairweathers (Mrs. Hind, Miss Stannard and Mr. Boyd) to present a rather too highly colored and revolting phase of Gotham life, which they did in true melodramatic style. Mr. Curran was too "mild-mannered a villain" in the part of Gideon Bloodgood, the banker. The tableau of the fire was very good, although somewhat contracted in its effects. The novel sight of a policeman on his knees before a lady would have made the Commissioners stare; but Mr. Chanfrau, on joining the force after his escape from suffocation in the model tenement house, obtained a roving commission in the vicinity of Wall street, which probably did not subject him to the weekly trials at headquarters.

To-night Mr. Chanfrau will appear in his celebrated characters of Sam and Mose at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

OPENING OF THE NEW STEINWAY HALL.

The corner stone of this grand hall on Fifteenth street, between Union square and Irving place, at the rear of the marble warerooms of Messrs. Steinway & Sons, will be laid this afternoon, at three o'clock. This edifice, which has long been a desideratum in the metropolis, will be built in the most substantial manner. It will extend from the rear wall of the present building through to Fifteenth street—a distance of one hundred and twenty-three feet. The hall will be seventy-five feet wide and forty-three feet high. The basement walls are granite, three feet thick, the first story walls two feet eight inches, and the walls of the upper tier twenty eight inches thick from floor to ceiling, with heavy supporting columns all laid in cement. Two centre walls are running the entire length of the building, from the foundation directly under and supporting the beams of the center hall floor, each wall twenty inches thick. The stage will be placed at the end fronting Fifteenth street and the main entrance will be from Fourteenth street. There will also be two doors of egress, seven feet wide on either side of the stage, leading directly into Fifteenth street, thus allowing the hall to be emptied in an incredible short space of time. Fronting Fifteenth street and alongside the hall on its western side an additional building is being erected, containing the artists' dressing rooms, even with the stage. The upper story will contain the windlasses and some of the heavy work of the stage. There will be two galleries (one above the other) at the end of the hall towards Fourteenth street, which will extend on either side of the hall about one-third of its length only. The hall will be finely decorated and lighted and ventilated in the best possible manner that modern science affords. It will be heated with steam, the steam generator being located outside of and some distance from the building. The front on Fifteenth street is being built of the finest Philadelphia front brick, with brown stone trimmings and fine ornamented pillars and caps. Connecting with the main hall there will be a large room in the second story of the front building, twenty-five feet wide and eighty-four feet deep, affording room for four hundred persons, so that there will be ample and comfortable sitting room for two thousand five hundred persons. The organ, from St. Thomas' church, of thirty-two stops, has been purchased and will be fitted up to serve temporarily until the grand organ is finished. The entrance through the present building on Fourteenth street is through a handsome vestibule, wainscotted and trimmed with black walnut. The floor is of Italian marble tile of mosaic pattern. When completed it will be the finest and most elegant concert hall in the country and worthy of our great metropolis.

THE FENIANS.

The Cornwall Prisoners Apply for a Writ of Habeas Corpus.

TORONTO, C. W., May 25, 1866.

The counsel for the Cornwall prisoners, charged with Fenianism, applied to the Court of Common Pleas to-day for a writ of habeas corpus. The Chief Justice has promised judgment to-morrow.

Meeting at Cooper Institute this Evening.

During the last few days James Stephens has received a number of letters from Fenian circles in Indianapolis and other Western cities endorsing him as the Head Centre of the Fenian organization, both in Ireland and this country. In consequence of these encouraging symptoms the C. O. I. R. is extremely sanguine of his ability to thoroughly reconstruct the organization, and believes that within six weeks the majority of the circles will give in their adhesion to his line of policy.

This evening a mass meeting will be held at the Cooper Institute, under the auspices of the Executive Committee of the Manhattan Circle, when James Stephens will deliver an address on the present position and future prospects of the movement.

The Confederation Question in New Brunswick.

ELECTION OF FOUR CONFEDERATION CANDIDATES IN NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY—TROUBLE ANTICIPATED, ETC.

ST. JOHN, N. B., May 25, 1866.

All the parishes in Northumberland have not yet been heard from, but there is not the slightest doubt from returns received that four confederation candidates have been elected by a majority of three hundred.

There is great excitement here. A confederationist was killed last evening in the principal street of the city. Much trouble is anticipated.

Illegal Branding.

A UNITED STATES SURGEON FINED A THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR ILLEGALLY BRANDING AN ALLEGED DESERTER WITH THE LETTER D.

BOSTON, May 25, 1866.

In the Superior Court to-day, in the case of James Mulcheary vs. Dr. Henry J. Bowditch, for damages for illegally branding the plaintiff with the letter D (deserter) while examining surgeon in the Provost Marshal's office, the jury returned a verdict of one thousand dollars for the plaintiff.

News from New Orleans.

NEW ORLEANS, May 25, 1866.

The Red river levees have given way and the whole country is submerged, from Nachitoches down. The sugar cane is promising where it is not flooded.

It is estimated that the cotton crop of Louisiana will be about one-third of the crop of 1861. That of East Louisiana is estimated at two-thirds, and North and Middle Louisiana about one-fifth. In the Red river country and the other overflowed districts scarcely any cotton will be raised.

Cotton unchanged; sales, 2,300 bales; low middlings, 36c. a 37c. To-day's receipts, 710; week's receipts, 5,210 against 5,460; week's exports, 15,300; stock, 147,496 bales. Freights easier, but unchanged. New York exchange ¾ premium.

The Long Bridge at Richmond.

RICHMOND, Va., May 25, 1866.

The Long bridge across the James river, on the line of the Richmond and Petersburg Railroad, erected in place of the bridge destroyed by fire in April of last year, was completed to-day.

Personal Intelligence.

A messenger was despatched from West Point on Thursday to inform the family of General Scott of his failing condition.

The Case of Mr. Dexter, of Mobile, Late Supervising Agent of the Treasury.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Several of the daily papers have just discovered that Mr. Dexter has been convicted before a military commission, at Mobile, and sentenced to pay a fine of $250,000. This was once true, but it occurred some three months ago, and the record was sent to the President of the United States, as the reviewing officer, for his approval. On that occasion General Benjamin F. Butler, of Massachusetts, and Judge Charles A. Peabody, of New York, appeared as counsel for Dexter, and after elaborate examination and full report by Judge Advocate General Holt to the President the findings and sentence of the commission were disapproved and set aside, and Mr. Dexter was thereupon, on the 14th day of April last, discharged, thus terminating the trial, one of the longest and most onerous that has ever occurred in this country. Mr. Dexter was not, as alleged, proved to have defrauded the government of millions, or of having sold an office for $25,000 as alleged; on the contrary, he was acqu