

from the island, brigaded under command of the Broadway Italians and made to aid in purifying the city before the warm weather sets in. The Italians have shown an excellent example, and inasmuch as they have turned their backs on the opera we hope the harpists of Erin will hang up their national instrument for a season and the Turners enjoy their calisthenics in aiding their Latin friends to render New York what nature intended it should be—a cleanly, healthy, happy city.

The Alabama Claims in the House of Commons.

In another place in this day's HERALD we publish a cable despatch giving a somewhat detailed account of the debate which took place in the House of Commons on the evening of the 6th instant on the question of the Alabama claims. The speeches, one and all, breathe a spirit of conciliation. There is, it is no longer to be doubted, an anxious desire on the part of the British people to have this question finally, and, if at all possible, amicably disposed of. The friends of America, it will be seen from the outlines which we give of the speeches, were open-mouthed and fearless in their advocacy of our rights. Mr. Lefevre, Mr. Forster and Mr. Mill unquestionably gave expression to the popular mind on the subject. Lord Stanley and Mr. Gladstone, naturally enough, defended the position which had been taken by the government; but the speeches of both were mild and conciliatory in the extreme. Neither the one nor the other despaired of an amicable settlement. Lord Stanley still insists that the right of Great Britain to recognize the belligerent rights of the South is one which cannot be brought before any commission or any arbitrator. On all other questions the Queen is prepared to arbitrate. We see no good reason why this one difference between Lord Stanley and Mr. Seward should effectually bar further negotiations. An umpire or a mixed commission, one or other, is clearly foreshadowed by the debate. What the decision will be we know not, but we cannot resist the conviction that England's simplest and safest course would be to pay down the money at once.

The Bankrupt Law.

During the four or five days previous to the 2d of March the business of the United States District Court in Bankruptcy was considerably increased. Voluntary petitions were filed at the rate of thirty or forty a day. There appeared to be much anxiety on the part of intending applicants for the benefit of the Bankrupt act to lodge their petitions before the 2d of March, 1868. The anxiety arose from an apprehension that the period within which the voluntary clause operated expired on that day—a year from the date upon which the Bankrupt act was approved by the Congress of the United States. On the other hand, it is believed that this voluntary clause does not cease operation until the 1st of June next, which will be exactly twelve months from the day the law actually went into force. To this belief many lawyers and several of the Registers in Bankruptcy for the Southern District of New York incline. The question, however, which is one of considerable importance to the commercial community, has not yet come before the court for formal decision. It would be desirable in the present aspect of the matter that there should be a pronouncement by the court on the point to which we have adverted. And as we are upon the subject of the Bankrupt law, we may as well state some facts which cannot fail to be of interest to the public. There are hundreds of persons in the community whose circumstances are embarrassed, who are utterly without means of paying their debts, and who, therefore, if they attempt to do so, are bankrupt for the purpose of clearing themselves of their liabilities, must find it difficult to pay the Register's fees, to say nothing of compensation for legal advice. To put a case of voluntary bankruptcy through the court costs from one hundred and twenty dollars to one hundred and fifty dollars in fees alone, and that sum is of considerable importance to a person who has no assets. How, then, can a man overwhelmed with debt and having no assets hope to obtain the benefit of the bankrupt law? He is met at every step with a demand for "fees." There is something extraordinary about these fees. How does it happen that a Register in Bankruptcy in this district is able to make from seven thousand dollars to ten thousand dollars per annum by fees alone, while we believe the stated annual salary of the Judge of the District Court does not exceed four thousand dollars? The thing is perfectly preposterous. The Judge of the District Court performs grave and solemn duties, requiring the exercise of discretion, wisdom, knowledge of the law and a nice balancing of difficult questions, while the obligations imposed upon a Register in Bankruptcy are in the majority of cases of a mere routine character and as might be discharged by a clever and intelligent clerk. The Register has to fill up a good many blank forms; he is sometimes called upon to decide a point of law, and if he cannot decide it satisfactorily he may certify it to the Judge, who settles it for him. For this mere routine of duty he makes by fees seven thousand dollars or ten thousand dollars a year, which would be amply paid for at three thousand dollars.

If this bankrupt law is intended to reach and serve a struggling class in our community the expenses of applying it ought to be cut down, and we have shown where the pruning knife might be effectively used in the matter of Register's fees.

THE LUCKY MR. BUTLER, OF TENNESSEE.—Hon. Roderick R. Butler, one of the radical delegation in Congress from Tennessee, having been subjected to an examination on the charge that he had "given aid and comfort to the enemy" in various ways—that among other things he had been a member of the rebel legislature of the State for some time during the rebellion, and the said Butler having been found guilty of the alleged disloyalties the question occurred, what shall we do with him? Whatever he had been, he is in the House a good radical and is a man to be taken care of. His party friends, therefore, first proposed to strike out all of the test oath which he could not take; but after the turning out of John Brown Young, of Kentucky (democrat), this would be too much like a special bill of favoritism towards Butler. Then the case was referred back to the committee, and they re-

ported a general bill providing by a two-thirds vote of each house to relieve loyally disposed ex-rebels from the political disabilities incurred by aiding the rebellion. The bill was passed, and then a special bill to apply the provisions of the act to this aforesaid Butler was passed, and by these processes of reconstruction Mr. Butler will doubtless be saved from the fate of those ex-rebels who join the democratic instead of the republican party. Mr. Butler, of Tennessee, is hitting the radical test of loyalty.

THE CONSUL AT ROME—MORE MCCRACKENISM.

—During the fighting between the Papal Zouaves and the Garibaldians near the Eternal City, the United States Consul went out to see what was going on. *Præsto!* A bilious Englishman residing in Rome, perhaps having naturally little love for an American Consul, wrote immediately to Mr. Seward that said Consul was taking part in the troubles there and giving his influence against Garibaldi. And on the strength of such a communication Mr. Seward rebukes the Consul. This statement will suggest two wonders—first, a wonder why Mr. Seward, if he can find no more important things to do in Washington, should not go to Auburn; and, second, a wonder how long the United States government will be able to keep gentlemen in its consularships, when it pays next to nothing for the performance of the duties, and deprives the position of all dignity or honor by making the holder subject to the censorship of every ill-natured fellow that comes along.

A DANGEROUS CUSTOMER.—A radical organ of the party has just put in a caveat for the important discovery that all of Andrew Johnson's political perturbations and aberrations since from the portico of the White House he pronounced Forney "a dead duck" may be charged to opium, because "those who are acquainted with the signs of that most seductive of all agencies of excitement and of madness fancy that they see in the peculiar roll and glare and frenzy of his eye the expression of opium." Here is something new for the managers of the impeachment, and this "peculiar roll and glare and frenzy of his eye" may be worth looking into while the committee are dissecting their "dead ducks" and "swinging round the circle."

The Proposed Grand Charity Fair in New York.

We have already referred to the proposed "National Fair" to be held in this city in April to aid in providing homes for the destitute widows and mothers of soldiers who fell in the war. It is a noble object and ought to receive encouragement from every one. There is no person of right feeling that will not say Godspeed to the charitable undertaking. Looking at the array of names of ladies and gentlemen attached to the appeal which has been circulated, and at the enormous wealth they represent, we should suppose a very large sum will be realized from the contributions and exertions of such distinguished individuals. But while we hope this highly worthy scheme will be carried out and be very successful, we beg to call the attention of these benevolent and wealthy ladies and gentlemen to the great distress and suffering in New York at the present time. The Society for Improving the Condition of the Poor reports tenfold more destitution than it can possibly relieve with the limited contributions it is receiving, and it is the same with the Commissioners of Charities. The very severe winter and want of employment have caused an appalling amount of want and suffering. Silent charity is not so attractive or popular with many rich people as those charities which blazon forth their names in circulars or through the press, but their truly charitable will give freely whether their gifts be known or not. None can fail to see the destitution that exists unless they willfully shut their eyes, for there are at this very hour, only the other day one of those poor little Italian child minstrels whom we see almost at every corner was found dead—dead with cold and starvation—at the steps of a Fifth Avenue mansion. Surely, something should be done by the rich and by the authorities to prevent these children—these little homeless and friendless outcasts—from perishing in the streets. But there are thousands of others of all nationalities, and even Americans, who are in a starving condition. Let our charity be so far-reaching, therefore, as to reach the destitution that actually exists all around us. While we get up fairs for the widows and mothers of our soldiers and acquire credit before the public for doing so, let our silent charities save those who are now perishing in our midst. Who among that long list of ladies and gentlemen, representing millions of millions of wealth, will lead off in a subscription for relieving the present appalling distress? And who will follow? Let the present necessity be attended to first and then provide for the future.

THE COMING PURIM BALL.

The annual ball of the Purim Association—an affair altogether too familiar in the first circles of the metropolis to need description by way of advanced course—will take place to-morrow evening at Pike's Opera House, and is intended to eclipse even its illustrious predecessors in fashionable *eclect*. The first public ball or masquerade given by this association was given in 1862 in celebration of the Purim feast at Irving Hall—though, owing to the statute prohibiting masquerades, it came near not occurring at all, and was only permitted to occur under the name of a fancy dress ball, not materially differing in its features from the European *carriola* ball, though somewhat less extravagant in costume. Since then the Purim ball has become one of the institutions of fashion, as also has the *Leiderkrantz* and *Quadrilles* of really singular magnificence. The fifth ball of the association occurred in 1866, and was, perhaps, the most brilliant and successful ever conceived in the *féconde* brain of the Prince Carnival. The Academy was transformed as if by magic into a scene of Oriental splendor and magnificence. The American government only pressed the point for the purpose of showing that but for the unfriendly action of England the Alabama deprivations would not have occurred. Mr. Mill thought that an arbitrator between the two countries was needless, and that reparation was fairly due to the United States. He concluded by advising the appointment of a mixed commission for the proper adjustment of the question.

Mr. W. E. Gladstone, member for South Lancashire, thanked Mr. Lefevre for his able speech and Lord Stanley for his temperate reply. He (Mr. Gladstone) could not understand why the negotiation was ended, nor could he agree with Mr. Mill that that an arbitrator would surely decide against England. For himself he doubted if reparation for the Alabama deprivations was due the United States. It was unquestionably right that the point should be referred to a commission; but if the government feared such a reference it should settle the matter at once or leave the decision with an umpire. He (Mr. Gladstone) inferred, however, from the closing sentence of Lord Stanley that communications between the two governments were not closed, and that friendly feelings between the United States and England would be preserved.

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TELEGRAPHIC NEWS FROM ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.

The Alabama Claims Debate in the British Parliament.

Mr. Disraeli and the English Telegraphs.

ENGLAND.

The Alabama Claims Question in Parliament—Important Debate—Lord Stanley on England's Position and the "Belligerent" Recognition—Mr. Seward and Daniel Webster Quoted—Mr. Gladstone's Speech.

—In the House of Commons last evening after the transaction of other business, Mr. Shaw-Lefevre, member for Reading, called up the question of the Alabama claims. He made a long and eloquent speech on the subject, in which he urged the settlement of this vexed question on the plan proposed by the American government. In calling for the papers on the subject, and in moving the consideration of the question, he disclaimed any feeling of prejudice. All future negotiations, he said, would be added to the complications already existing. He sketched the progress of the recent civil war in the United States to his happy termination. He said the fall of Fort Sumter evoked the famous proclamation of President Lincoln. In less than a month after the appearance of that proclamation Great Britain recognized the Southern insurgents as belligerents. They had no fleet, but they purchased their ships in our ports. These ships notwithstanding the vigorous measures of our government to stop them, eluded our vigilance, and went to sea, and were hospitably received at the British colonial ports. They captured and destroyed the war more than two hundred American merchant vessels. In less than two years the United States flag was literally driven from the seas, while the commerce of Great Britain was doubled. For this reason, the speaker thought, we ought to treat these claims generously. They were first made in 1862 by the American Minister, Mr. Adams.

After a warm eulogium on the course of Mr. Adams on this and on other questions, Mr. Shaw-Lefevre continued. An arbitration of the matter had been proposed by the American government, but was refused by Lord Russell, who repelled the suggestion. Lord Stanley might have taken the other course, as the Tories had changed on the question of household suffrage. The question of recognition by England was only as to her right, if there were a right that might safely be referred; but Lord Stanley insisted that the responsibility of England was only a moral one in the Alabama case. The speaker thought that the less said about morality on this question the better. He regarded the breaking out of war between England and the United States as extremely unlikely; but thought on the other hand that all needless irritation should be avoided.

Lord Stanley then took the floor. He praised the pacific course of the orator of Mr. Lefevre and warmly complimented Mr. Adams for the cordial spirit he had displayed in the subject under discussion. He said we could not make indiscriminate concessions, but we could learn the right of the case. There never was a case where there was more need to understand the points. Much allowance was to be made for the feelings of the United States. Great Britain in the same case (with five hundred millions of debt contracted through a civil war, in which a million lives had been lost), might appreciate the case better than mere lookers-on only. He thought England had been entirely neutral. But neutrality would have pleased America. What the United States wanted was neutrality coupled with warm sympathy and support. The Queen was ready to arbitrate and submit all questions but the great point of recognizing the belligerent rights of the South. Nobody contends that at no time the South acquired them. If not, why deny the right of Great Britain to recognize them at the time she did? The Confederate ship Alabama did not sail from England until 1862, and the battle of Bull Run was fought in 1861. Admitting that it was wrong for Great Britain to recognize the South, would the United States government say that its case against the Alabama had been altered had Great Britain made a declaration of neutrality six rather than eleven months before the sailing?

Lord Stanley referred to the speech of Daniel Webster in the United States Senate on the subject of recognizing Hungary in support of his argument, and continued—How could England refuse to recognize a war which Mr. Seward himself had announced to be a civil war nine, twelve and sixteen days before the proclamation? Who could complain that England had recognized the civil war, which the United States had admitted some weeks before? In conclusion, he thought a friendly arrangement of this difficulty still practicable. He deprecated the debate. The friendly reception of Mr. Thornton at Washington was a pledge of peace. The British Ministers are ready to leave the question to the people of the entire world.

Mr. W. E. Forster, member for Bradford, thought that Mr. Seward's view of the question of the recognition of the Alabama claims deserved better treatment and more careful consideration, as being, perhaps, the view that was right and sensible. He complained of the abrupt disposition of the question which had been made, when the universal wish in the United Kingdom was for its speedy settlement. He thought that had any influential statesman been sent to the United States as Minister the point in dispute might be readily adjusted.

Mr. John Stuart Mill, member for Westminster, was the next speaker. He regarded the present condition of the question as the result of a mutual mistake. The real question was whether England was bound to prevent such expeditions as that of the Alabama. He denied that the United States government claimed or could claim that the recognition of the South was a violation of the law, but only that it was an unfriendly, rash and unpremeditated act. The American government only pressed the point for the purpose of showing that but for the unfriendly action of England the Alabama deprivations would not have occurred. Mr. Mill thought that an arbitrator between the two countries was needless, and that reparation was fairly due to the United States. He concluded by advising the appointment of a mixed commission for the proper adjustment of the question.

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the Alabama claims to arbitration is due to no desire to shun her just obligations. Mr. Seward has only to meet Lord Stanley in a like spirit to end the misunderstanding.

The tone of the articles in the other journals is generally the same.

Mexico and Ireland.

—In the House of Commons last evening Lord Stanley submitted further official papers about Mexico.

On an order to go into committee of supply, Earl Mayo said he hoped that the debate on the condition of the delegates from this date, although the Convention adjourned to meet on Monday for the election of registers.

The Death Penalty—Fenianism in London.

—In the House of Commons last evening Charles Gilpin, member from the borough of Northampton, gave notice of a bill to abolish the death penalty.

A double guard has been placed around Newgate, where Messrs. Burke, Ousey and Shaw (the Fenians) are confined. Their trials have been set down for next month.

Consolidation of the Telegraphs Under the Government.

—Mr. G. W. Hunt, M. P., who resigned his seat when he went into the Cabinet, has been re-elected from Northamptonshire. He will soon bring a bill before Parliament for the purchase by the government of all telegraphs in the kingdom.

IRELAND.

Government Offer to Fenian Prisoners.

—It is reported that the Fenian prisoners who were captured recently at Dungarvan, Ireland, were offered their pardons on condition that they would give their parole to leave the kingdom.

It is further reported that the prisoners unanimously refused to assent to this proposition.

FRANCE.

The Press Law Debate—New Minister to London.

—In the Corps Legislatif yesterday the law for the regulation of the press was again under consideration. The clause forbidding private alms was adopted by a large majority after a short debate.

Marquis Peppol, French Minister to Russia, has been appointed to Great Britain in the same capacity. [Marquis Peppol is probably Italian Minister to London in place of the King's Ambassador at that Court just resigned.]

GERMANY.

The American Naturalization Treaty.

—A bill for ratifying the treaty just concluded between the representatives of the United States and North Germany has been introduced in the Council.

VIRGINIA.

The Convention—Diagnos and Expulsion of a Conservative Member—The Disfranchising Clause.

—In the Convention to-day the case of Mr. Williams, the conservative member who refused to vote yesterday on the disfranchising clause, was taken up and referred to a committee. During its consideration, Mr. Leggett, a conservative, refused to vote, on the ground of "contempt and disgust for the proposition," and afterwards added—"I have a contempt for the whole establishment." He was expelled by a vote of yeas 64, nays 16.

A Republican member moved to reconsider the vote by which the disfranchising clause was adopted yesterday. Two colored members opposed it, saying they had heard that a telegram had been received to-day from Washington stating that the vote must be reconsidered, and that this motion was the result. The whole question is postponed until next Thursday.

General Schofield has appointed several magistrates to fill the vacancies recently created. The appointees are old residents.

NORTH CAROLINA.

The Convention—Passage of the Articles on Homesteads and the Finances.

—The Reconstruction Convention last night adopted the article on homesteads, claimed by some to be retroactive, exempting one thousand dollars' worth of land.

To-day the principal feature of interest was the passage on the third reading of the article on finance which requires the Legislature to make provision by adequate taxation from the prompt and regular payment of the interest on the State debt, and forbids the creation of any new debt unless the bill creating the same shall levy a tax to meet the accruing interest annually, and forbids the loan of the credit of the State for any new work unless authorized by direct vote of the people.

Mr. J. W. Holden, of the Standard, was elected printer to the Convention.

GEORGIA.

The Convention as a State Nominating Body—Discontent Among the Factionists.

—To-day the Convention resolved itself into a State nominating body. A majority of the white delegates refused to participate. Ninety-two members answered to their names. Of these there were thirty-one colored and twenty-eight Northern men. There was much confusion in organizing. Mr. Farrow, the President of the Union League, protested against the action of the body, and announced himself a seceder from the Convention. Mr. Parrott, who was President Parrott, was among the dissenters. Mr. Bullock was nominated for Governor by acclamation. The feeling amid the opposition is intense.

MISISSIPPI.

The Convention—The Tax Question—Proposed Action on the Reported Disposition of Colored People of Their Property.

—In the Convention to-day additional sections were incorporated in the tax ordinance authorizing the State Treasurer to pay the Convention warrants already issued. A telegram was received from General Gillem's adjutant recommending some provision for the payment of those warrants.

A colored member introduced a resolution, which was adopted, setting forth that some persons, formerly slaves, had acquired property in 1861 and 1862, and have since been deprived of it by their former masters, and requesting General Gillem to issue an order restoring such property of compelling payment thereof.

LOUISIANA.

The Convention—Signing of the Constitution by the Members.

—The City Finance Committee to-day telegraphed to New York to stop printing notes. No more are to be signed or issued from the Treasury, and they will probably be withdrawn from circulation soon.

FLORIDA AND CALIFORNIA.

—The Governor has declined to transmit the State Senate resolutions in regard to the action of Congress and the impeachment of the President, for the reason that they would have a tendency to influence the action of the State Senate.

AN AVAILANCE AT KEYSTONE, SIERRA COUNTY, ON THE 4TH OF MARCH, BARRED SEVENTEEN MEN IN THE SNOW, THREE OF WHOM WERE KILLED. Several buildings were destroyed.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE CENTRAL PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY DENIES THE TRUTH AS REPORTED CONCERNING THE PURCHASE OF THE SAN JOSE, SOUTHERN PACIFIC RAILWAY AND SACRAMENTO RAILROADS BY THE CENTRAL COMPANY.

THE GREAT REPUBLIC SAILS FOR HONG KONG TO-MORROW.

THE NEW DOMINION.

Encouragement of the Government to the Proposed Joining of Vancouver's Island to the Confederation.

—The Dominion government has sent an encouraging reply to Victoria, Vancouver's Island, in response to the resolution adopted in favor of the Pacific coast joining the Dominion.

ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING COMPLETED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS BY THE FIRST OF NEXT MONTH.

EUROPEAN MARKETS.

LONDON MONEY MARKET.—LONDON, March 7, 1868. The money market is steady. Consols, 93 1/2 for money and the account. American securities close at the following rates:—United States five-twenty bonds, 113 1/2; Erie, 47 1/2.

FRANKFORT BOURSE.—FRANKFORT, March 7.—United States five-twenty bonds, 75 1/2 for the issue of 1867.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.—LIVERPOOL, March 7.—3 P. M.—The cotton market closed active and firm. The sales have been fully 15,000 bales. The following are the closing quotations:—Middling uplands, import, 9 1/2; middling, 9 1/4; middling uplands, to arrive, 9 1/4; middling, 8 3/4. A day's advance.

LIVERPOOL PRODUCE MARKET.—LIVERPOOL, March 7.—3 P. M.—The produce market is generally quiet. Wheat is active and firmer, though prices are unaltered; white California 10s. per cwt. 4s. 6d. per bushel. Corn, 4s. 6d. per bushel. Peas, 4s. per 50 lb. Flour, 37s. 6d. per bushel for Western canal.

LIVERPOOL PROVISIONS MARKET.—LIVERPOOL, March 7.—3 P. M.—The provisions market closed active and firmer, and nearly all the articles in the list have materially advanced. Beef, 11s. per cwt. extra prime, 10s. 6d. per cwt. Lard, 58s. 6d. per cwt. Cheese, 5s. 6d. per cwt. for the best grades of American fine. Bacon, 4s. 6d. per cwt. for Cumberland cut.

LIVERPOOL PRODUCE MARKET.—LIVERPOOL, March 7.—3 P. M.—The articles for American produce are generally unaltered. Naval stores dull. Sugar, 10s. 6d. per cwt. for No. 12 Dutch. Coffee, 10s. 6d. per cwt. for common North Carolina and 11s. for medium. Turpentine, 38s. 6d. per cwt. for No. 1. Rosin, 7s. 6d. per cwt. for common. Sperm oil, 110s. per ton. Lined oil, 23s. 10s. per ton. Refined petroleum, 1s. 2d. per gallon. Lined oil cakes, 10s. 10s. per ton for this oil being for feeding.

EUROPEAN MARINE NEWS.

SOUTHAMPTON, March 6.—The Hamburg American Packet Company's steamship Cimbric, Captain Haack, from New York February 25, arrived here at 10 P. M. to-day, and mails and passengers are proceeding for Hamburg.

SOUTHAMPTON, March 7.—The steamship Cimbric, from New York, arrived at six o'clock last evening on the way to Hamburg.

QUEENSTOWN, March 7.—The steamship William Patten, from New York, arrived here early this morning on the way to Liverpool.

INTERNAL REVENUE MATTERS.

The New Regulations Governing Receipts of Cotton.

As the orders recently issued by the United States Internal Revenue officers in this city on the subject of cotton transportation have necessarily attracted considerable public attention from their important connection with the interests and business of a class of our merchants among the wealthiest and most influential, and as the various fragmentary newspaper versions of the subject that have appeared from time to time have been not only incorrect, but a complete and sometimes contradictory, and an unbroken misunderstanding of the law and regulations on the part of the business community would probably lead to uncalculated abuse of the officers engaged in the enforcement thereof, we have felt it to be our duty as journalists, alike devoted to the interests of the people and the government, to ascertain all about the subject from unobscured authority and lay it before the public in plain and simple English.

The law provides for the collection of internal revenue in the collection districts of the United States, and in each district a collector is appointed to collect the tax on the production or sale of cotton in the district of its destination. When the producer or owner desires to pay the tax at home he surrenders to the collector, and his receipt is obtained before landing, discharging or delivering such cotton at the place to which it is transported; and any person who violates this provision, or who attempts or attempts to convey cotton from any State in which cotton is produced, without a compliance with the forms of law, is liable to the penalties, fines and forfeitures provided for by section 513 of the act of July 13, 1866.

The collector of the district of destination, on receiving the permit form 98, gives him a receipt for another form 98 and returns it to the assessor of that district in which the cotton is to be transported. The assessor, after receiving the permit form 98, issues a receipt, which is kept of the transaction, thus establishing a double check on official fraud.

When the producer or owner of cotton desires to ship it from the place of its production, the tax to be collected by the government in the district of its destination, he obtains a permit from the assessor of that district in which the cotton is to be transported, there to be delivered by the transportation company to the collector, who, on receiving the permit form 98, issues a receipt for the cotton, which will after collecting the tax from the parties named in the permit, deliver it to the assessor of the district of destination. The assessor receiving such permit form 109, with his collector's proper endorsement, will transmit it, after making proper entries on his cotton account to the collector of that district in which it is to be transported. The success of the movement, as far as the receipts of tax on cotton in the thirty-second district are concerned, cannot be better illustrated than by the statistical result of an increase of twenty-five per cent in February over the month of January. The merchants complain very much of the new regulations, as in many cases the cotton must be stored in the district in which it is to be transported, until it is identified. At the railway depots, where the same course is pursued as at the steamship pier, the inventories of the cotton are made by the collector, and the collector, fully appreciating the importance of adopting the same plans, has issued orders to the railway companies, to let the collector, Charles R. Cornwell, and his assistants, to examine the cotton, and to do so without any special evasions of the law will be developed through the means now energetically adopted for its future enforcement.

Seizures of Distilleries.

The subpoenaed seizures of distilleries and rectifying establishments have been by Raymond Inspect-

tors Morgan and Rollins in the Eighth Collection district. The distillery of E. Low, in West Thirty-first street, on account of its being seized, and also Lewis Fevris, No. 9 Abateur place, West Thirty-ninth street, it being charged that there was more than the lawful quantity of an exhibit of 420 bottles authorized. The rectifying establishments of Weinberger, in West Thirty-fifth street, having in store distillery and an exhibit of 420 bottles of West Thirty-eighth street, having in hand five barrels of spirits, were seized, there being in the hands of the proprietors no tax receipts for the same.

THE THAW.

The Condition of the Streets—Snow and Frost—Puddles and Pedestrians—The Central Park.

The blustering March this year certainly made a leonine advent, and threatened, as he tossed and shook his white mane, to plunge New Yorkers into a protracted winter. But his spirit, as we have seen, has not subsided into the proverbial lamblike docility, and the genial face of old Sol has played grand havoc with the tresses of the fury of his young month. Two or three days since the streets were almost impassable with long strata of snow, and yesterday they were almost as difficult to traverse in consequence of the lagoons of slush and ridges of ice that were to be found in every thoroughfare in the city. Broadway was, as is generally the case during a thaw, the most disagreeable street in the metropolis, not only for pedestrians, but for the passage of vehicles also. The deep snow which fell early in the week had become tolerably well packed, and as soon as the sun's rays had melted it was a very good "counterfeit pavement" of dirty brown ice. The omnibuses and heavy wagons cut it into deep ruts and "pot-holes," and these were filled with water and slush. Crossing the street was a task which, if successfully performed, was worthy of being designated a feat of dexterity, the fingers and thumbs being being so slippery that it was difficult to obtain a good footing. On Friday night and during the whole of yesterday a detachment of about one hundred men of the 11th and 12th regiments of the city militia, under the command of Whiting's street cleaning brigade were set to work with picks, shovels and tumbrels in the vicinity of Prince street and began cutting back the snow away from the foot of Broadway, working in both directions, north and south. Some of the narrow streets in the lower part of the city were almost impassable for vehicles, and in the streets of the upper part, there were holes that took wheels almost to the hubs. Many of the crostown thoroughfares, also, which are traversed by city roads are in a very bad condition, owing to the fact that they are in most cases rather narrow, and the snow has been thrown on each side of the track, and has formed a ridge of snow three feet high. As it melts the water flows over the sidewalks and in many places accumulates to the depth of two or three inches. Broadway, above Prince street, is a very bad example of this kind of slushy slipperiness and ruddy riddiness that prevails throughout the whole of its southerly portion, owing to the fact that it is a very narrow street, and the snow street, one of the most crowded streets in the city, is of course about the worst in point of encumbrance and general inconvenience. The snow in many places from two to ten inches higher than the level of the footwalk, and owing to the narrowness of the carriage-way, as well as the narrowness of the sidewalks, it is continually in great danger of having their feet crushed and limbs broken, as the trucks and wagons frequently slide off the sidewalks and run into the foot pavement. In addition to this, the gutters being filled with ice, the water flows over the sidewalks, and the heavy vehicles "slurping" into the holes and ruts splash everybody and everything within twenty feet of them. The Fourth and Sixth wards, always disgustingly dirty, have, in consequence of the melting of the snow, become still dirtier, and the water that flows through the filthy-saturated streets of these sections of the city is a most disgusting sight. The water is very warm, and the bowery is in better condition than any other of the lower town, and the thoroughfares on the north side of the city are in a very bad condition, owing to the fact that the water is flowing more to the great number of street railroad tracks than to the accumulation of the snow.

As well, in fact, as almost the entire northerly portion of the city, are by far the cleanest and best of all the streets of the city. The Broadway and Avenue is, perhaps, in as bad a plight as any, with the exception of its sidewalks. The roadway is a compact mass of mud, and the sidewalks are so filthy, though the slush and water does not accumulate to a great depth, it compensates for the deficiency in the gutter, and the water runs along the sidewalks, and the water that flows through the filthy-saturated streets of these sections of the city is a most disgusting sight. The water is very warm, and the bowery is in better condition than any other of the lower town, and the thoroughfares on the north side of the city are in a very bad condition, owing to the fact that the water is flowing more to the great number of street railroad tracks than to the accumulation of the snow.

Threatened Freshet in Illinois.

CHICAGO, March 7, 1868. The rains of the past two days extended all over the Northwest, and a general freshet is threatened. Already much of the country is flooded, and some damage is reported.

Breaking of