NEW YORK CITY.

THE COURTS.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT—IN ADMIRALTY.

The Brig Harp and Steamboat Only Son Collision Case.

Before Judge Blatchford.

Frederick J. Parker and Henry Darling vs. The Steamboat Only Son.—In this case, which had been heard in the course of the April term, the following decision has been rendered:—The libel was filed in June, 1863, for a collission which occurred between the brig Harp and the propeller Curlew, which was at that time in tow of the steamboat Only Son. The collision took place in the harbor of New York, off pier No. 18 North river. The Harp was beating from Jersey City and bound to the East river, and the Only Son was going from the East and up the North river. The vessels saw each other at a considerable distance and precautions were resorted to. However, the tow struck the Harp on the bow and did her considerable damage. It was the duty of the Only Son to avoid the Harp. She endeavored to do so, but made too close a shave, when there was ample room to give the Harp a wider berth where she had the whole river open to her to the westward. There must be a decision for the libellants, with a reference to a Commissioner to ascertain the damages. R. D. Benedict for the libellants; Charles Donohue for the claimants.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT—IN BANKRUPTCY.

Judge Blatchford opened the court yesterday morning (regular day) at eleven o'clock to hear motions in bankruptcy.

William L. Schoener, for himself and against George Dwight and Henry A. Chapin.—The defendant called, but there was no answer. Proof of service was filed. Default of defendant Chapin was entered, and the court ordered an adjudication of bankruptcy.

Demetrius G. Scofield, for himself and against his Co-partners, Samuel L. Scofield and John M. Moorehead.—On this case being called proof of service on S. S. Scofield was made, and a consent by him to adjudication of bankruptcy was entered. The case with respect to Moorehead was adjourned to May 9.

PETITIONS FILED YESTERDAY.

George W. Markham—Referred to Register Ketchum.

Myer L. Christeller—Referred to Register Williams. Both of New York city.

Important Question as to Influencing Creditors to Procure Order of Discharge.

In the Matter of T. Manson.—In this case certain creditors opposed the application of the bankrupt for his discharge, on the ground that under the twenty-ninth section of the act he had unduly influenced certain creditors in Philadelphia to withdraw their opposition to his discharge, which they had originally entered.

It appeared from the testimony of the bankrupt that he went to Philadelphia and saw the creditors and made some representations to them, as he alleged, upon which they agreed to withdraw their opposition if he would engage to pay the fees of the counsel they had employed to oppose him, and under this arrangement the bankrupt paid $20 counsel fee.

Mr. Edwin James, counsel for the creditors, argued the case for the opposition and contended that the case was without the mischief intended by the act. That the amount paid, however small, was immaterial, if it was part of a corrupt agreement; and cited various authorities upon questions of bribery from the English courts. Mr. Nye, for the bankrupt, urged that the order of discharge be granted. Decision reserved.

In the Matter of Asa Craft.—In this case Judge Blatchford granted an order for adjudication in compulsory bankruptcy upon an amended petition altering the allegations of the act of bankruptcy.

Edwin James, counsel for the alleged bankrupt, gave notice of appeal.

SUPREME COURT.

The Erie Contempt Proceedings Adjourned.

The further hearing in the Erie contempt proceedings was to have been resumed yesterday morning at eleven o'clock.

At that hour Judge Cardozo appeared on the bench and announced that Judge Barnard had sent information that in consequence of illness he was unable to attend, and an order from the latter Justice was read adjourning the proceedings until Thursday, May 7.

The Schell motions before Judge Sutherland were adjourned until Tuesday next.

SURROGATE'S COURT—COUNTY OF NEW YORK.

Before Gideon J. Tucker, Surrogate.

WILLS ADMITTED TO PROBATE.

The wills of the following deceased persons were admitted to probate during the past week:—Edwin W. Ryerson, James W. McKee, Harrison Brown, Charles McWilliams, Maria Forster, William Baitsch, James Murphy, Ferdinand Letz, John M. Palisse, Frederick Devoe, Anthony J. Hill, Emma Z. Youman and Otto M. M. Werle.

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION GRANTED.

Letters of administration were granted upon the estates of the following deceased persons:—Warren Jones, George Edwin Brown, John McCullum, Mira Lackowski, Carsten H. Bohlen, Elizabeth C. Lippitt, David Egert, otherwise David Eger; Elizabeth Ginn, Rachael J. Linn, Ann Delaney, Frederick Gehling, Isaac Forester, Peter Waters, Patrick Kane, William A. C. Kanefent.

LETTERS OF GUARDIANSHIP GRANTED.

Letters of guardianship were granted to the following persons as guardians:—To Joachim H. Sackmann, of Mary Klages; George B. Earhart, of Isaac Earhart, of Isaac Scott; Henry Uffellmann, of Hugo Silver; Ferdinand Gebhardt, of Heinrich Fischer; Louis Levy, of Asher Levy; Charles Blauvelt, of William R. and Daniel A. Linn.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

THE POST OFFICE AID ASSOCIATION.—This association, which was formed for the purpose of affording pecuniary aid to the families of deceased members of the department, had its origin in the decease of an employé of the office some two years since, a sufficient sum being raised by subscription to defray the funeral expenses of the deceased and afford some aid to his family, soon after which event the association was formally organized, with an agreement that all members should, in case of the death of any one of their number, contribute $2 in aid of his bereaved family, or, if without family, such proportion of that sum each as should be necessary to defray funeral expenses. On Monday last occurred the first test of the practical utility of the association in the death of Mr. J. B. Halstead, of the Registry Department. The members of the association having been notified of Mr. Halstead's death, on Thursday the sum of $1,400 was placed in the hands of the treasurer to be paid to Mr. Halstead's family. Deceased had served in the army for three years, and was until the close of the war Secretary of the New England Hospital. The war over, Mr. Halstead became connected with the Post Office Department in this city.

THE MARITIME EXHIBITION AT HAVRE.—A variety of nautical models, illustrative of the maritime progress of America, were forwarded by the General Transatlantic Company's steamship, the Pereire, which sailed from this port for Havre yesterday.

SCHOOL OF THE COLLEGIATE REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH.—The two hundred and thirty-fifth anniversary of this institution was celebrated in the school rooms in Twenty-ninth street on Thursday last. The examination of the scholars was very creditable to them, and the exercises in composition, declamation and vocal and instrumental music were very gratifying to the parents and friends of the pupils. Premiums were presented to the most worthy scholars by Rev. T. W. Chambers, D. D.; the prizes by Rev. T. E. Vermilye, D. D., and the diplomas to the graduates by the venerable Dr. DeWitt, who closed with prayer.

NO MURDER.—Corner Keenan yesterday held an inquest at the Fourth precinct station house on the body of Mrs. Mary Morrissey, whose death, at 81 Rooseveit street, was alleged to have been caused by violence at the hands of her husband, John Morrissey. The testimony of Deputy Coroner Wooster Beach, M. D., who made a post mortem examination, shows that death resulted from puerperal convulsions, and the jury accordingly rendered a verdict to that effect. Immediately after the rendering of the verdict Morrissey, who had been arrested, was discharged. Deceased was twenty-three years of age and a native of Ireland.

SUICIDE BY CUTTING HIS THROAT.—Coroner Flynn yesterday held an inquest in Mount Sinia Hospital on the body of Charles Gunther, late of 286 Ninth avenue, who died from the effect of an incised wound of the throat, inflicted by himself several days ago. Deceased and his wife had lived unhappily together and a separation was the result. His friends taunted him to such an extent in regard to the matter that he became desperate and sought relief in death. The jury rendered a verdict corresponding with the foregoing facts. Deceased was thirty-four years of age and a native of Germany.

IN BRIEF.—Dr. Alexander B. Whiting, once Health Officer at this port, died at his residence in this city yesterday morning.

Consequent on the construction of the numerous new buildings there are great scarcity and demand for carpenters, who respond to the piteous appeal of the bosses by a demand of $4 a day, instead of $3 50.

A laborer named Thomas Fitzgerald was very badly injured about ten o'clock yesterday morning, at pier 18 East river, by a large pile of lumber falling upon him while unloading the ship Michael Loos. He was taken to Bellevue Hospital.

Marshal Tappen, of the License Bureau, reports that for the past week he has granted licenses as follows:—Venders, 17; public carts, 80; dirt carts, 20; dog carts, 1; porters, 5; drivers, 26; express, 19; boarding houses, 4. Total, 172. Fines collected, $27. Total amount collected, $453.

A young man named George Ward, living at No. 40 Adams street, Brooklyn, while coming to this city yesterday morning lost his balance and fell from the forward part of a Fulton ferryboat into the water. Several boats started to his relief, but before they reached him he drifted with the tide to pier No. 12, on this side, where a boatman succeeded in rescuing him.

The Eighth precinct police have removed to the new station house corner of Prince and Wooster streets.

During the first four months of this year the number of emigrants arriving at this port was 11,482 less than during the corresponding period of 1867.

The total amount of specie exported from this port yesterday to Europe, exclusive of a large sum during the week, was $890,000.

The treasurer of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals acknowledges the receipt of $1,046 since the last published statement.

Another hotel (the St. George, corner of Thirty-third street and Sixth avenue) is to be sold out next week.

The report made to Chief Clerk of Metropolitan Police by Captain Brackett of work done by the Twenty-sixth (City Hall) precinct during the quarter ending April 30 shows the following results:—Money taken from prisoners and restored to them, $1,041; property recovered and restored to owners, $3,093; complaints made at the Corporation Attorney's office for violations of corporation ordinances and against city railroad cars, 6,394; junk dealers, 40; intelligence offices, 22; hacks 57; second hand dealers, 9. Total, 6,522.

The members of Arcana Lodge, No. 246, F. and A. M., are making preparations for formally receiving with due honors the body of the late Reuben Lowell, a well known citizen of New York and an honored member of the Masonic fraternity, who died at New Orleans on the 22d inst. The deceased was interested in the proprietorship of the New York theatre.

POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

THE MULBERRY STREET ROBBERY—CORRECTION.—William Kelly and Charles McGuinness, two of the three men who on Friday evening entered the house of Wm. S. Gavey, 275 Mulberry street, and forcibly took from his possession a pocketbook containing $471 in greenbacks and a check for $41 67 drawn on the Manufacturers and Merchants' Bank of this city, were yesterday arraigned before Justice Dowling. After the arrests were made the prisoners were searched at the Spring street police station, and concealed under Kelly's coat was found the stolen pocketbook and contents, which he vainly endeavored to conceal. The prisoner Kelly is not, as has been stated, the person formerly known in sporting circles as Australian Kelly. The latter asserts his ability to take care of his own property and let that belonging to others alone.

CHARGE OF FALSE PRETENCES.—Moses Regenstein and Charles Raphael, alias Henry Beck, were yesterday arrested by officer Palmer, of the Tombs Police Court, on a charge of false pretences preferred against them by William Sindorf, of 157 Grand street. The latter, in his affidavit, sets forth that on the 28th ultimo he entered the store of Regenstein, 369 Grand street, to sell forty-five pieces of laces valued at $260; that while there Beck came in and was introduced to him by Regenstein as a respectable and responsible man. Sindorf and Beck had a conversation, which resulted in the latter representing that he lived at No. 34 Essex street; that he owned the property and was doing a good business. On these representations, which are alleged to be false, Sindorf sold Beck the goods for cash, which was to be paid the following morning, but was not, and still remains unpaid. Regenstein and Beck are therefore charged with conspiracy to defraud Mr. Sindorf, by means of false and fraudulent representations, out of the sum of $260. The prisoners were taken before Justice Dowling and required to give bail in the sum of $2,000 each to answer before the Court of General Session. Regenstein is thirty-three years of age, a native of Germany and deals in fancy goods. Beck is a Prussian by birth, thirty-two years of age and lives at No. 1 New Chambers street. Both of them deny their guilt.

A MUSICAL OFFENDER.—Henry Ennver, a young man, twenty-one years of age, recently in the employ of Mr. Charles J. Holder, of 188 Spring street, was yesterday arrested by detective Bennett, of the Central Office, on the charge of stealing one hundred and fifty pounds of gong bells (for a musical instrument known as a bell piano), valued at $140. The property was taken on or about the 18th day of March, which Ennver confessed and admits selling the bells for the insignificant sum of $10. The accused, who is a pianoforte maker, lives in Spring street, near Varick. He is a native of England. Justice Dowling committed the accused for trial in default of $1,000 bail.

ARREST OF AN ALLEGD BURGLAR.—Robert Ellis, a pedler, was yesterday arrested by officer Williams, of the Third precinct, on the charge of entering the door leading to the loft of premises No. 49 Warren street, by means of false keys, with intent to steal a quantity of boots and shoes valued at $15,000, belonging to M-. Morris Steck. The accused was found standing at the foot of the stairs leading to the loft, where he had no legitimate business. Justice Dowling committed the accused for trial. Ellis, who lives at 24 James street, says he is innocent; that he was not on the premises.

CITY CAR PICKPOCKETS.—As Mr. John Hathorn, living at No. 4 Bedford avenue, Brooklyn, was yesterday morning getting off a Grand street car at the ferry three men crowded about him and stole his gold watch. He had not gone many steps before he discovered the robbery and at once caused the arrest of the three men and recovered his watch. They endeavored to bribe him into letting them off, but he forebore to take their money, but, on the contrary, had them taken before Judge Mansfield, at the Essex Market Police Court, who locked them up in default of bail to await trial at the Court of General Sessions. The men gave their names as George F. Train, George Kain and John Roach. The one assuming the name of the distinguished exponent of female rights and present transatlantic traveller is an elderly gentleman, whose venerable gray hair, portly figure and plain black broadcloth garments would avert any supposition of his being a pickpocket. The last named person was recognized as an old offender.

THE KINGSLAND BOND ROBBERY.

Investigation Continued—Another Adjournment.

The examination in the case of Messrs. Manning & De Forest, bankers and brokers, of No. 19 Wall street, charged with having in their possession a portion of the $10,500 in Virginia State and other bonds stolen from Messrs. Ambrose C. Kingsland & Sons, Broad street, on or about the 21st of March last, as reported in yesterday's HERALD, was continued before Justice Dowling at the Tombs.

Mr. Henry M. McLaren, clerk and bookkeeper for Messrs. Manning & De Forest, was examined, and testified that the Virginia State bonds claimed by Mr. Kingsland and purchased by his employers were bought in the regular way; one of these bonds was irregular, a portion of the original number (11,129) having been erased so as to make it only No. 291; the bond not being negotiable, the witness, by order of Mr. Manning, sent through a firm in Richmond to the Virginia State Auditor for the purpose of having a new bond issued in its place, as is usual; these Virginia bonds were purchased at the then market price. The examination of the witness was continued at great length by Mr. Sewell, counsel for the defendants, but the whole tenor of his testimony went to show that Messrs. Maning & De Forest came in possession of the bonds in the regular order of business, with not the least suspicion at the time of the purchase that they had been stolen. Assistant District Attorney Gunning S. Bedford cross-examined the witness, but without shaking his direct testimony in any important particular.

Howard Lapsley, a stockbroker, of 13 Broad street, testified that the value of Virginia State coupon bonds on the 22d of March last was fifty for the old and forty-eight for the new bonds.

The further investigation of the case was adjourned till to-morrow (Monday) morning.

OBITUARY.

Sidney P. Ingraham, Jr.

Sidney P. Ingraham, Jr., died at his residence, No. 38 East Twenty-fifth street, on Wednesday evening, at the age of thirty-six. He was one of the most popular of the young merchants of this city, and very widely known as an active political man in the State. He was twice elected to the Assembly from the upper part of New York city—the Twelfth ward—with which he was so much identified that his absence or residence elsewhere never appeared to detach him from the esteem and attachment in which he was held by citizens of the Twelfth ward of all classes and parties. Through his efforts while a member of the Legislature those measures by which the system of boulevards was established for the upper end of the island became laws. His connection with these bills and the splendid results which they will bring to pass should mark his name on the list of those who have conferred the greatest benefits upon his native city. It is seldom indeed that a public representative has the opportunity to mark his term of office by so permanent and comprehensive a service to his district and his constituents. But besides this an equally signal service was rendered by him to the entire city—perhaps it may be said to the entire country—in the abrogation of the noted volunteer Fire Department. It was to his energy, tact and courage that the abolition of the old department was mainly due. It should, however, be noted that the organization of the present new department was made in violation of positive pledges from the present Governor and his friends that the reorganized or paid department should be instituted upon a basis which should centralize or exclude politics by the appointment of a non-partisan Board of Commissioners. In private life Mr. Ingraham had the *entrée* of the best society and yet maintained a remarkable popularity with all classes. His culture and open, manly address, his fine, gentlemanly presence, and especially his frank, overflowing good nature, marked him as a general favorite. He leaves a wife and child, with an extended family circle, to mourn his death in the prime of life.

EUROPE.

ENGLAND.

The Volunteer Review at Portsmouth—View of the Muster and Manœuvres—The Sham Battle and Engineering Capacity of the Nation for Defence—Easter Week and Holiday Enjoyment—Queen Victoria as a Kind Grandmother—Disraeli, the Church and the Theatres.

LONDON, April 15, 1868.

Easter Monday dawned very brightly, and before five o'clock A. M. thousands of volunteers were off for the grand review and sham battle at Portsmouth. I shall not undertake to describe the scenes at and near that seaport. It would be old news before this letter could be published; and besides this, field days, which are such wonderful events to the English volunteers, are quite familiar to the citizen soldiers of the United States. Your purpose will be better served if I briefly criticise the main features of the display.

The distance from London to Portsmouth is about two hours and a half by rail. The volunteers carried neither knapsacks nor baggage, and were therefore easily conveyed by the trains—as easily as ordinary passengers. All arrived in time, and there were no accidents. Nearly thirty thousand volunteers and one brigade of regulars. The review—or "march past," as the English call it—amounted to nothing. All the best corps shirked it, and with very few exceptions marched directly to their stations. The most of the battalions reviewed gave one a very poor idea of the volunteer force. The men kept their distances badly; the artillery horses were all abroad.

The sham fight was held on the hills and in the villages above Portsmouth, the country sloping down to the sea, and a fleet of gunboats taking part in the conflict. The plan of battle, like all amateur attempts, was an impossibility. No enemy could or would land and advance as had been arranged; no army could or would repulse an enemy in the manner laid down on Monday. At times the scene was very picturesque, especially when little villages seemed overcrowded with troops and white puffs of smoke burst from the thickets and hedgerows; but at no time did it at all resemble a real battle. This was partly the fault of the men and partly that of the officers, but on the whole the latter were the more to blame.

For one feat the volunteer engineer corps deserve credit. In ten minutes they constructed a pontoon bridge over a creek ninety feet wide and made it passable for skirmishers; in six minutes more artillery rolled across it. Of course the enemy looked on at this work without firing a shot to interrupt it. During the day a squadron of cavalry was missed for some hours, and was afterwards discovered banging away at the gunboats. At intervals great gaps and breaches were left in the lines of the volunteers, and a single regiment of real enemies would have made short work of the whole array. The volunteers were very unsteady when formed in line, and those who were behind the works kept popping in and out in a manner that must have delighted the enemy's sharpsnooters, if he had any. No officer knew enough to send his men to cover when a bank or fence was available, and the men were quite careless in their firing, shooting just for the sake of noise when the enemy was supposed to be very far out of range. On the whole, the best military men assert that the English volunteers have only shown themselves fit for defensive work in forts and fortified places. We know from experience that the American militia can do something better than that.

These criticisms, by no means unfriendly, are concurred in by the leading London papers; but, with all its faults, the display was far from discreditable to the volunteers. On the contrary, it did them credit, for 30,000 men, to give up their national holiday, ride down to Portsmouth, find their own refreshments, tramp about all day and return home, thoroughly fagged out, late at night, is certainly a very patriotic proceeding, when its object is to increase England's capacity for defence against her foreign foes. But when these men are compared with the volunteers of America the contrast is not very favorable to them. In uniform, in drill, in parade, in the camp, at the review and on the field the New York volunteers are immeasurably superior to those of London. But those spectators who were disappointed in the evolutions of the volunteers were more than compensated by the appearance of the brigade of regulars—splendid fellows, who marched like one man, and moved like machinery. They were armed with the Snider rifle, and you could tell when they came into action by the rapid firing, just as the Chassepot announced its presence at Mentana.

In London Easter passed off very gayly; excepting the absence of noise, it seemed more like the Fourth of July than any other day I have spent outside of the land of the free. The parks, the Zoological Gardens and the Crystal Palace were all overcrowded during the day, and all the theatres in the evening. There was wonderfully little drunkenness. Although the streets were thronged yesterday the holiday spirit was still kept up, and the departure of the Prince and Princess of Wales for Ireland was made the occasion of a hearty popular demonstration as the pair drove to the Euston railway station.

The three children of the Prince and Princess are left behind, two of them in charge of the Queen, who has recently assumed the *role* of an affectionate grandmother. A few months ago she was scarcely on speaking terms with the Prince and his family, but now Prince Alfred's conduct has, it is said, quite condoned the Prince of Wales' offences. It is very funny to see the pains and space which the London papers take to announce the fact that the children are left with the Queen. What with their Royal Highnesses this and their Royal Highnesses that, one would think they were speaking of giants instead of babies.

Disraeli is down in the country writing startling letters about the spread of Popery. He knows the humbug of this as well as his critics; but he thinks it a good electioneering dodge. I fear that he is mistaken. If he clings too firmly to the Irish Church he will certainly go down with it.

Mr. Dion Boucicault has not yet sufficiently recovered to leave his house, and the Princess' theatre is announced for rent shortly. John Oxenford's version of "Oliver Twist" has been a dismal failure at the Queen's theatre. Burnaud's "White Fawn" is moderately successful at the New Holborn, which opened on Easter Monday, and his "Hit or Miss," an adaptation of Hervé's "L'Œil Crevé," is almost a failure at the Olympic. Madame Celeste is playing the Woman in Red at the St. James' theatre—her farewell engagement—to moderate audiences. Professor Risley's Japanese troupe are a decided hit at the Lyceum. Brough's new burlesque, "The Field of the Cloth of Gold," is a go at the Strand. Both operas are doing pretty well. Miss Kellogg has renewed her success of last season, and it is beyond question legitimate and genuine. A new play, called "Poor Humanity"—excellent for the Bowery theatre—has been successfully brought out at the Surrey. Miss Louisa Pyne has returned to town with her operetta troupe, which have made an immense sensation in the provinces.

The *Saturday Review* has just been creating a decided sensation by a series of articles upon modern English girls, which are said to be written by a lady of high social position. Here is the latest description of the English girl:—The girl of the period is a creature who dyes her hair and paints her face, as the first articles of her personal religion; whose sole idea of life is plenty of fun and luxury, and whose dress is the object of such thought and intellect as she possesses. Her main endeavor in this is to outvie her neighbors in the extravagance of fashion. No matter whether, as in the time of crinolines, she sacrificed decency, or as now, in the time of trains, she sacrifices cleanliness; no matter either whether she makes herself a nuisance and an inconvenience to every one she meets. The girl of the period has done away with such moral mustiness as consideration for others or regard for counsel and rebuke. Nothing is too extraordinary and nothing too exaggerated for her vitiated taste. If a sensible fashion lifts the gown out of the mud, she raises hers midway to her knee. With purity of taste she has lost also that far more precious purity and delicacy of perception which sometimes mean more than appears on the surface. What the *demi-monde* does in its frantic efforts to excite attention she also does in imitation. This imitation of the *demi-monde* in dress leads to something in manner and feeling not quite so pronounced perhaps, but far too like to be honorable to herself or satisfactory to her friends. It leads to slang, bold talk and fastness; to the love of pleasure and indifference to duty. The girl of the period envies the queens of the *demi-monde* far more than she abhors them. She sees them gorgeously attired and sumptuously appointed, and she knows them to be flattered, feted and courted with a certain disdainful admiration of which she catches only the admiration while she ignores the disdain. They have all for which her soul is hungering, and she never stops to reflect at what a price they have bought their gains, and what fearful moral penalties they pay for their sensuous pleasures. It is this envy of the pleasures and indifference to the sins of these women of the *demi monde* which is doing such infinite mischief to the modern girl. The legal barter of herself for so much money, representing so much dash, so much luxury and pleasure—that is her idea of marriage; the only idea worth entertaining. But she does not marry easily. Men are afraid of her, and with reason. They amuse themselves with her for an evening, but they do not take her readily for life. Besides, after all her efforts, she is only a poor copy of the real thing, and the real thing is far more amusing than the copy, because it is real. Men can get that whenever they like. If we must have only one kind of thing let us have it genuine, and the queens of St. John's Wood, in their unblushing honesty, rather than their imitators and make-believes in Bayswater and Belgravia.

ITALY.

Cabinet Finance and Victories in Parliament—Parties in the House—A Tumult During Debate—The Public Taxes—Brigandage at the South.

FLORENCE, April 12, 1868.

The star of the Italian Finance Minister is decidedly in the ascendant. In the Parliament the government have had two very considerable majorities on occasions in which the opposition have put forth all their strength. During a fortnight the Chamber of Deputies has been engaged in discussing the question of the forced currency of the notes of the National Bank. Everybody feels this to be a grievous burden, both in and out of Parliament; but there is not equal unanimity upon the proper means of getting rid of it. Count Cambray Digny, Minister of Finance, informed the House that in order to effect the abolition of the forced currency he would require a sum of 501,000,000 francs, in gold, at least. The treasury was in no condition to meet such a demand, and the Minister therefore proposed not to deal with this question until after the adoption of the various financial measures he had laid before the House. These, consisting of various economies and administrative reforms, together with the imposition of the grinding tax on cereals, would reduce the present alarming deficit to insignificant proportions and raise the credit of the country at home and abroad. Then the abolition of the forced currency might be effected upon much less onerous terms than at present. The Minister clinched his argument by some very plain statements which considerably startled the House, little accustomed to such candor from previous finance ministers. Count Cambray Digny insisted upon the paramount necessity for the adoption of the measures he proposed, more particularly the "grinding tax." If these measures were not adopted within the first half of the present year a financial catastrophe would be inevitable. Italy, he said, must have reorganized her finance and made provision for the future before July next or national bankruptcy must ensue. Those, therefore, who caused delay would be responsible for the consequences.

This was a very grave declaration from a responsible Minister, and produced great effect in the House, more especially upon the third party, the independent group of members who fluctuate between the right and the left without vowing allegiance to either, and who do not always even follow the lead of their chief, Signor Depretis. This party was alarmed at the idea of being made the scapegoat for the consequences that might result from unconditional opposition to the Minister, and thus, to the disgust of the left and the glad surprise of the right, they voted with the latter upon both the important divisions that have taken place this week. Early in the debate Signor Rossi, a member of the right, proposed an order of the day engaging the government to present, as an indispensable complement to its financial measures, a bill for removing the forced currency. Meanwhile a committee of seven members should be appointed to examine the question, and report by the 15th of April upon the best means of effecting the abolition. This order of the day the Ministry accepted. But the left made a stubborn fight to bind the Minister of Finance to abolish the forced currency within some stated period. In this view they concurred in an amendment proposed to Rossi's order of the day by Signor Depretis, chief of the third party, or trimmers, as they are now most often called. The amendment provided that the committee of seven members, instead of simply reporting on the question, should embody their proposals in a formal bill. The left doubtless expected that the third party would vote with their chief, but alas, when the division came, the third party passed over bag and baggage to the right, who thus gained an important victory. In fact, the Ministry regarded the matter as a Cabinet question and were prepared to stand or fall by the finance measures of Count Digny. The proposal of the amendment that the committee should draw up a bill for the abolition of the forced currency was clearly in contradiction with the first paragraph of Rossi's order of the day engaging the government to present a bill. The Minister of the Interior declared also that the faculty of presenting bills rested with the government or with individual members, and could not constitutionally be exercised by a committee. The result of the vote, 211 to 38, approving Rossi's order of the day in its integrity was a significant demonstration of the weakness of the left, which on this occasion made strenuous efforts to turn the fortune of the day.

A very scandalous scene took place the day previous to the vote. A discussion arose relative to the manner of putting Rossi's motion and the Depretis amendment to the vote. The left were dissatisfied with the President, and refused to allow him to proceed by raising a terrible clamor. President Lanza's energetic character, and the respect and authority he enjoys with the House, were on this occasion of no avail to restore order. In vain was the ringing of the bell, in vain the President's indignant apostrophes against his unruly colleagues. Both were met by an angry roar of defiance, while many bitter things passed between the two sides of the House. Finding it impossible to quell the rioters, the President at length put on his hat and the sitting closed abruptly. Penitence followed the next day—two members of the left, deputed by their colleagues, expressed regret for what had occurred, although declining to accept the whole responsibility.

The adoption of Rossi's motion leaves the Minister of Finance at liberty with regard to the period of introducing his bill for the abolition of the forced currency. This defeat, however, did not discourage the left, who made a fresh, vigorous effort to upset the Minister's plans in a most important point. The opening of the debate upon the grinding tax on cereals had been fixed for Monday next. Last Wednesday, however, several speakers of the left urged that this tax should not be discussed until all the other financial measures had been voted; and on Thursday Signor Crispi, chief of the party, proposed an order of the day to that effect. Count Cambray Digny at once declared it to be impossible to accept such a proposal, and renewed the declaration he had already made respecting the absolute necessity for the prompt discussion of this tax, so that if approved it might come into operation on the 1st of January, 1869. The question was decided yesterday afternoon, when the House rejected Signor Crispi's motion by 213 against 103 votes. On this, as on the previous occasion, the whole third party voted with the majority. Two decisive defeats within a week will have a discouraging effect on the left, and may again produce that absenteeism which a short time back was imagined to be the forerunner of total abstention.

The late debates have, however, sufficiently shown that the left contemplated no such suicidal policy. They must accept the position of a minority with the best grace they can. While rejecting Crispi's motion the Chamber approved two others, proposed by Minghetti and Bargoni. The first binds the Minister to present within a month proposals for effecting economies and administrative reforms to the extent of producing a gain to the Treasury of one hundred million lires. Signor Bargoni's motion is to the effect that after having discussed the grinding tax the Chamber shall withhold its definitive approval of that impost until the other ministerial financial measures have been voted.

All other business having been exhausted, the debate on the "grinding tax" commenced. This tax is so serious and unpopular a measure that nothing but the sternest necessity urged the Minister to propose it. The left, it is to be hoped, will not allow party passion to carry them away so far as to excite popular feeling on the subject.

Count Cambray Digny has given a very satisfactory assurance of his intentions respecting the taxation of the coupon of the rente. In his bill for the modification of the income tax, just presented, the Minister imposes the tax upon Italian holders of coupons and foreign holders having permanent residence in Italy. But foreign holders residing abroad are distinctly exempted by a clause in the bill. This will go far to remove the depression of Italian stock caused by the late persistent rumors of the indiscriminate deduction of income tax from the interest of the Italian public debt. The Finance Minister has now fulfilled all the promises of his budget as far as the presentation of new laws is concerned. Since January he has laid before the House the whole system of measures relative to administrative reform, economies in various departments and modifications in the system of taxation. His work is well done, and gives proof of an amount of industry and energy to which Italy is wholly unaccustomed in her Finance Ministers.

Quitting finance, which is now the most absorbing topic of interest throughout Italy, I regret to have to speak of a matter which is assuming a very ugly aspect. I allude to the fearful increase of brigandage in the Southern provinces. A few days ago no less than thirty-eight mayors of Calabrian and Neapolitan towns presented a joint petition to the Chamber of Deputies praying for some more prompt and effectual means of extirpating this terrible scourge than had hitherto been adopted. Two years ago brigandage was dealt with according to the swift and rigorous procedure of martial law with such effect that it appeared to be almost wholly crushed out. The military system was subsequently abolished and the supremacy of the ordinary courts restored throughout the South. But for the repression of brigandage these are deplorably inefficient, for the simple reason that jurymen and officials are not unfrequently *manutengoli*, or covert supporters and abettors of the ruffians brought before them. Nor can the jailers of some of the Southern prisons be trusted from a similar reason. Many brigands have recently escaped from jail in a manner clearly indicating connivance on the part of the officials. Since Mentana, the Bourbon reactionary party, having its centre of intrigue at Rome, has been more active than ever and is now doing its utmost to promote brigandage and every other form of agitation and trouble in Sicily and Naples. Priests and brigands are laboring to produce anarchy. While the brigand murders and robs in the country the priest is busy in the town exciting all within his influence to conspiracy and sedition. One of the latest devices of the Bourbonists to produce discontent among the people has been to buy up all the copper money they can get hold of. Disturbances have already occurred in two or three places owing to the scarcity of copper coin, which entails great hardship and loss upon the lower class. The Mint of Naples has received orders to coin a large fresh supply, but there is every probability that it will be absorbed as rapidly as the last. With regard to brigandage the government is preparing to act against it with a considerable military force, the chief command of which will be given to General Pallavicini. His headquarters will be established in Terra di Lavoro and under such a chief the operations will be conducted with all the requisite energy and activity. The state of things has indeed become so serious as to call for the most prompt and decisive measures. Domenico Fusco, at the head of a band numbering between eighty and one hundred men, has regularly taken the field in the Calabrias. He has already had some fighting with a strong detachment of troops, but escaped with slight loss owing to the protection of the woods and the rocky character of the ground. Another large band, under Pace and Ciccone, entered the village of Casafredda on the 28th of February and distributed money to the extent of 200 lire to induce the young men to follow them. They had no success, however, and left the place after an abundant meal, exacted from the inhabitants. On reaching the open country they murdered, with all the circumstances of atrocity usual with these monsters, an unhappy man named De Petrillo, whose family had not been able to pay the ransom demanded for his release. Four forest guards were similarly murdered by another band at Cervaro.

A landed proprietor named Achille Lauza, his brother Domenico, an ex-judge, and Signor Priano, an ex-deputy, were lately travelling from Oria, near Cosenza, to a neighboring village. The two brothers were mounted, while the deputy drove a light cart. About a mile from Oria Signor Domenico's horse was stopped by two armed men, who appeared to have issued from a small house by the roadside. Achille Lauza was at this time riding on a little distance ahead. Domenico was armed with a double gun; which happened to be loaded, and immediately the men seized his horse's bridle he gave each of them one barrel, stretching both dead under his horse's feet. This brought out ten more brigands from the house close by, who, enraged at the death of their two comrades, instantly killed Domenico by a general discharge. Achille Lauza, on hearing the report of his brother's gun, immediately turned back, but had to fly for his life before the ruffians who had just murdered his brother. Achille was by far the richest of the party, and it is supposed that the brigands stopped Domenico by mistake. Already furious at the loss of their comrades, and unsatiated by the slaughter of Domenico, they turned upon the hapless Deputy Priano, who, despite his entreaties for mercy and offers of a large ransom, was savagely murdered on the spot. The above are but a few out of many similar atrocities that have stained the southern provinces during the present year. In some remote villages the brigands are perfect lords paramount, very much as the Highland chiefs once dominated the lowlanders. The Mayor of San Vittore one day punished a woodcutter for some offence against the law. This man, to obtain revenge, joined a band of brigands, and by the aid of his companions seized the Mayor one night and carried him off to the mountains. The functionary was only released after payment of 14,000 ducats and the loss of an ear. At Venafro the brother of the Bishop had to pay 10,000 ducats for his release, and a humbler individual named Mora 4,000. Certain districts are the centres of *manutengoli*, or supporters of brigandage, and to these the brigands resort from time to time for supplies of provisions, arms and ammunition, for which they pay very heavily. Such a state of things as this not only keeps the towns and villages in a constant state of alarm, but has a most vitiating and demoralizing influence upon the peasantry, many of whom are tempted to join the brigands by their success and comparative impunity.

TRAGEDY IN MISSISSIPPI.

Murder of an Entire Family—Summary Execution of the Murderers.

A brief account of the discovery of a murder perpetrated near Omega Landing, on the Mississippi river, has already been published. The following details are from the Vicksburg *Times* of the 22d April:—

The citizens living in the vicinity of the scene telegraphed to this city requesting that Deputy Marshal Resor be sent to investigate the matter. Captain Resor proceeded to Omega Landing, within a mile or two of the Neck, and there obtained information which convinced him that the criminals had crossed over in a skiff, and were making their escape in an easterly manner. Accompanied by General Peck and Captain Cavalier, Resor crossed into Mississipi and succeeded in coming up with the fugitives on the second day. Four negroes are supposed to have been implicated in the matter. Two, who are yet at liberty, planned the murder, and two who were burned at the stake executed the act. The two arrested were taken singly, the first one acknowledging his guilt at once and informing on his accomplice.

From the confession made by both soon after their arrest it seems that Keenan, who sold wood to steamboats, had been singled out as a victim several days before the plan was put in practical operation. The negroes were waiting until he disposed of and received the money for a lot of wood he had piled out on the river bank and ready for sale. On the 11th ult. a passing boat landed and took the wood. Keenan stayed at the landing until the boat left, and then, as he was returning to his cabin, was shot with an old musket in the hands of one of the negroes. Hastily searching him, they discovered that he had no money, with the exception of a single three cent piece. Concealing his body with leaves and underbrush, and infuriated at this disappointment, they then proceeded to Keenan's house, intent on completing their work of death. At the door of the house they met Keenan's wife and in an insolent and threatening manner demanded something to eat.

The woman replied that there was not much in the house, but that her husband would return in the course of a few minutes, and such as it was they could have a portion. One of the negroes then remarked that she need not wait for her husband; that he wouldn't be there; that they had "fixed him." The woman became seriously alarmed at this stage of the proceeding, and, feeling that she was in imminent danger, attempted to seize a pistol lying on the mantelpiece. She was rudely pushed aside by one, while the other, with a blow from an axe, stretched her bleeding on the floor. Attempting to arise, another blow almost severed her head from the trunk, and she fell back a second time, her head in the fire blazing on the hearth.

The oldest child, a boy some ten years of age, stepped into the house at this time, and, seeing the position of his mother, ran forward to extricate her, when the axe was again raised, and the boy sank beside his mother, killed at a blow. The second child, a girl some years younger than the boy, was sleeping in a bed and being awakened by the noise began to cry and call for its mother. To have treated it as they did the boy would have been an act of mercy. They set the bed on fire and, binding the child on it, burned her alive! The arresting party secured the prisoners and on the following day, the 20th, delivered them to the proper civil authorities at Omega Landing. Having confessed their guilt and waiving an