CUBA.

Departure of Political Prisoners—Their Destination—Details of Encounters—Bravery of the Insurgents—Mexican Citizens in Cuba.

HAVANA, March 20, 1869.

The sailing of the political prisoners for Fernando Po or elsewhere is set down for to-morrow. It has for more than two weeks past been the principal subject of conversation and speculation among all classes. Though there is a possibility that the vessel may be still further delayed, it cannot be long. The ship selected, after considerable difficulty, is the Francisco de Borjas, a Spanish war vessel with two guns and eighty men. She is commanded by Commander Heres. The orlop has been divided into three compartments, each to contain 105 prisoners. They will be subdivided in accordance with their position in life. They have been permitted to provide their own mess and to engage a cook. Mons. Edouard, of the French Hotel Legrand, has been selected. Each prisoner has contributed sixty-eight dollars towards the common fund. Private subscriptions have been made for the poorer prisoners, who are comparatively few. The cost of the provisions, wines, &c., provided amounts to $10,000. The money which the prisoners take with them, independent of the letters of credit, reaches the sum of $300,000. It may be doubted if a ship load of prisoners were ever better provided before. They are to be guarded by 100 volunteers, who are paid as follows:—Two dollars per diem to the sergeants, one dollar and a half to corporals and one dollar to the men. Among the officers going is one Martel, who is a person of some means, and whose hatred to the Cubans is such that he accompanies the prisoners, as he says, to treat them as severely as possible and to make sure that they are taken to Fernando Po.

Commander Heres is an officer of the Spanish navy and is represented to be a humane gentleman. He goes under sealed orders, with instructions to open them upon the high seas, and this confirms the idea, extensively entertained, that the prisoners will be taken to Cadiz; or at least those guiltless of any offence, comprising the majority. It is thought probable that the ship will touch at the Canary Islands. Most of the prisoners that have means have given powers of attorney for the transaction of their business to their friends, and many have made their wills. Among the latter is Don Carlos del Castillo, who bequeaths $1,000,000. It is stated this morning that their destination is Canary Islands.

News of encounters between the troops and insurgents continues to reach us as usual. From Cienfuegos, the 17th, we learn that the artillery column, under Morales de los Rios, with a squadron of cavalry, had come up with 2,000 rebels of Villa Clara, at Potrerillo, under Morales the Pole, Villamil and others, and had completely routed them, killing 205, wounding 300 and capturing twenty-one prisoners, some horses, arms, &c. Thirty Spanish prisoners were also retaken. The troops lost one lieutenant and one man. General Pelaez and his staff arrived at Cienfuegos on the 14th. The main body of his command was at Arimao, to which place he had sent supplies for 2,000 men. In his march he found the town of Cumanayagua deserted, having been sacked by the rebels. The only point where the rebels found any refuge was in Siguanea, where, owing to the ruggedness of the road, he could not take his artillery, and he did not care to pursue them without it.

General Letona arrived in Villa Clara on the 14th. He had a number of encounters with the rebels, in all of which he punished them severely. The shops in that place had been closed for a month, but upon the arrival of Letona with his chasseurs they were again opened. It was expected that the railroad to Cienfuegos would be repaired soon.

Dates from Trinidad are to the 17th. Colonel Bascours, commanding the column operating in this jurisdiction, had been slightly wounded in an encounter, but had recovered and was in the field again. The rebels had burned the estate of Señor Esquera, a Spaniard. The rebel chief Rojas was killed in a fight near Guaracabulla.

From Espiritu Santo dates are to the 12th. Several parties of rebels had passed the borders of that jurisdiction from Moron, Remedios and Villa Clara. Poello was expected back soon from his excursion in the direction of Moron. It is thought he extended his march to the confines of Puerto Principe. Nothing was known of his movements. An early restoration of telegraph communication was hoped for.

Sagua dates are to the 15th. The insurgents, being hotly pressed, had returned to Alvarez, and on their way had destroyed the railroad and telegraph. A column of 800 volunteers was expected. Between Sagua la Grande and Sagua la Chica the insurgents have burned five sugar estates after carrying away the negroes, whom they armed with machetes. On the estate "Gesoria," belonging to Don Fabian Garcia, 350 hogsheads of sugar were destroyed and eighty slaves taken off. Later dates say there have been two very bloody actions in Alvarez, thirty miles from Macagua. Large forces of insurgents have overrun the country. A band of 1,000 men had appeared at Macagua. On the 17th a party of 500 invaded the territory of Cardenas, and in the vicinity of a town called Motimbo some fighting had taken place. Two estates belonging to Spaniards had been burned. The government had directed the concentration of all its forces in the Villa Clara district, including those under Letona, Pelaz and Poello, with the artillery column of Colonel Morales de los Rios and a considerable force of cavalry, estimated to number in all 10,000 men. The insurgents, in despite of their inefficiency and the disadvantage of want of organization, arms and artillery, were fighting with great bravery and desperation. The nature of the ground is such that encounters are very frequent.

A fight is reported in Remedios on the 15th, when 3,000 rebels were defeated by a few volunteers and 136 killed, while the latter lost but two wounded. Five chiefs were taken and immediately shot.

In Colon on the 17th the express train had arrived, with 400 troops and a section of militia cavalry under Colonel Araoz.

Excessive rains throughout the jurisdiction had caused suspension of grinding on all the plantations.

Brigadier Lopez Pinto has been appointed Commandant General and Governor of Matanzas. He has assumed office. A rising was reported in Bolondron.

Commandant Obregon, second in command of Benegasi's "order column," has been named Lieutenant Governor of Holguin, in place of Señor Campos.

Letters through Spanish sources have been received here from Puerto Principe. They state that Lesca left Guanaja with 1,800 men and arrived with less than half that number, having lost the balance on the route. It was supposed the provisions he left at Guanaja fell into the hands of the rebels. Many of the women of Puerto Principe had gone out with their children to join their husbands, fathers and sons in the insurgent ranks. Lesca had issued an order directing their return within a certain time on pain of being made liable under military law. He wants them to prevent an attack on the city by the rebels.

Regarding the fifty prisoners recently brought here *La Voz de Cuba* says:—"We cannot but censure Señor Moreno Villar, the Governor of Remedios, who is known for decision and energy, for having committed the error of sending hither men whom he could have tried himself. The trial of supposed criminals should take place in the locality of their alleged offences. If innocent they suffer less; if culpable it is proper that they should suffer on the spot where their crimes were committed." The meaning of which is that Governor Villar should have shot them. Probably, however, that gentleman is not willing to do his share of that bloodletting which Dulce so lavishly lets out to his subalterns, in order that his own name may not be stained. Commissions of volunteers from Remedios, Trinidad and Santiago de Cuba have arrived here to represent the situation in their respective jurisdictions; they state that the forces in those places are far from sufficient to protect the people against the enemy who is everywhere presenting himself.

The Mexicans resident in Cuba are in a very bad way. They are everywhere objects of suspicion, no matter how innocent. A fortnight ago they applied to the American Consul for protection, but of course he could do nothing. There is no Mexican consul here. Numbers of them have been arrested and are now incarcerated, with no one to speak in their behalf. Two of them, who arrived here on the American steamer City of Mexico from Sisal, were arrested as soon as they reached the shore. Señor Ojeda, a Mexican, was recently released, after having been confined twenty-nine days without any knowledge of his offence.

FERNANDO PO.

A Penal Settlement of Spain.

The island of Fernando Po is situated on the western coast of Africa in the Bight of Biafra, which is the extreme end of the Gulf of Guinea. Its southern extremity is situated at three degrees twenty-five minutes north of the equator, and its longitude is eight degrees thirty-five minutes east of Greenwich. Its nearest point to the mainland is about forty-five miles. The highest point of the island is a little more than 11,000 feet, while its rival, the Cameroon Mountains, situated four degrees north, is more than 13,000 feet. The Cameroon Mountains were ascended by Captain Burton, the distinguished discoverer of Lake Tanganica, a few years ago.

The Cameroon and Fernando are decidedly of volcanic origin, and so are two islands of Princes and St. Thomas, which are not far distant.

The island of Fernando Po was discovered by the Portuguese in the year 1471, who ceded it to Spain in the year 1778. No European settlement was ever made on the island till the year 1827, and this was made by the English, who at that time knew not that the Spaniards had the right of possession.

In the year 1827 the English established on the island a coaling station so that their war steamers which were engaged in prosecution of the prevention of the slave trade in the Bight of Biafra might coal there and get provisions. The settlement was called Clarence, and the bay was called by the same name. Part of the liberated slaves captured from slavers and other liberated slaves from Sierra Leone were brought there, and when I visited the island the first time the population of Clarence might have been a thousand. There was a good deal of sickness among the negroes. A few traders made the headquarters of the establishment there, for Clarence is an excellent port for shipping palm oil, the water being deep and well sheltered from tornadoes. Vessels can almost touch the shore. Clarence was at that time considered a kind of entrepot, to store palm oil till it was shipped home. One of the traders was named Governor of the colony by the English.

The freed slaves began to plant orange and lemon trees and other fruit trees, which were brought from the West Indies, and they made a living by selling them to the numerous men-of-war which came to coal at the island; and bananas, pineapples, sweet potatoes, ground nuts and yams were also products which met a ready sale. The colony went on; the blacks were somewhat prosperous, at any rate far more so than the natives living on the Continent.

The Spaniards, some ten years ago, thinking that the English were doing well, claimed the island, took possession of it, signalizing their appearance by bringing a large number of monks and sisters of different orders, who began to die very shortly after their arrival. Soldiers were also sent and a Spanish Governor; then a penal settlement was formed. The liberated Africans, who had been somewhat Christianized by Protestant missionaries, began to perceive that they could not worship God according to their own consciences. Their meetings in their churches were forbidden, though they were allowed to retain their Bibles and meet in their houses.

The convicts are employed to make roads, cut trees, work hard in the hot sun, and of course the climate makes short work of them. Nothing can be more picturesque and beautiful than the island of Fernando Po. Hills after hills are covered to the very summit with magnificent trees, which come down to the sea, and little streams of most delightful water pour down from the mountains, and Fernando Po would be a most charming island to live in if it was not on account of its deadly climate. The natives of the island number about five thousand and are called Boobees. The malaria causes fever, and many die of it. The rains are heavy and continuous, the heat is very great, dysentery and liver complaints are also common, and the negroes will be the only people who will be able to live on the island for a long time to come. The great number of graves testify to the great mortality among the whites, and the transportation of these political prisoners to Fernando Po is an outrage against humanity and a disgrace to civilization.

P. B. DU CHAILLU.

LETTER FROM PARIS THIRTY YEARS OLD.

[From the New York Herald, Sept. 20, 1838.]

PARIS, August 6, 1838.

It was on Sunday last that I had the pleasure of visiting Mr. Welles at his elegant house on the banks of the Seine. It was a rainy morning, but towards the middle of the afternoon the clouds cleared away, the blue sky appeared and I found myself driving along the avenue de Neuilly. We soon passed the splendid Arc de Triomphe, begun by the great Napoleon and finished by the wise Louis Philippe. In a few minutes we reached by the route de St. Germain the bridge, crossed the Seine and drove rapidly down the banks of that beautiful river towards the chateau of Mr. Welles. It is situated on one of the most delightful spots in the neighborhood of Paris, on the southern bank, half way between the royal palaces of St. Cloud and Neuilly, with the celebrated abbey that was the retreat of Charles X. rising up behind on the top of a high eminence. Before we reached Mr. Welles' we passed the gorgeous chateau and grounds of Baron Rothschild—I believe he is a Baron—but titles in young France are very generally laughed at and dropped like an old pair of gloves or breeches a little the worse of wear. We reached the gate of the chateau early in the afternoon, and about the same time the sun broke out in great brilliancy, as if aware that we had been annoyed all the morning. On entering the gate a bell rang which announced at the house the approach of visitors. On entering I was presented by Mr. Welles to his lady, around whom I found several ladies and gentlemen from the United States. Before dinner the whole party, except the ladies, took a walk over the grounds, which are laid out in English style—winding walks, elegant shrubbery, deep forest, soft velvet lawns, summer houses peeping up here and there—and a most beautiful and romantic cascade in the centre of a miniature forest, where the water, conveyed by leaden pipes from a high hill at St. Cloud, three miles distant, issues from the fissure of an artificial rock and falls into a rustic basin surrounded with bushes and crossed by a bridge of the like character. This chateau formerly belonged to an old princess of the blood. In 1830, soon after the revolution, Mr. Welles bought it very cheap. It contains about forty acres, in the form of a trapesium, with its largest angle parallel with the Seine. On the edge of the road, which runs along the bank, a beautiful Gothic summer house is erected, from the balcony of which we can see three of the royal residences of the monarchs of France—one is St. Cloud, the other Neuilly, and, if I am not mistaken, the third is also seen from this point, the last pious residence of that holy humbug Charles X.

Outside the wall enclosing these sweetly disposed grounds are several acres purchased recently, a part of which is contiguous to the station of the new railroad constructing to Versailles. Through an opening in the trees we discovered one of the aqueducts built of the beautiful white stone from the quarries of the Seine, and calling up to recollection the works of ancient Rome. Mrs. Welles, who is a most remarkable woman, imbued with the spirit of her own country and also of that of the age—to such an extent, too, that in its action it rises to the elevation of genius—she says that she means to lay out the outside seven acres into lots for a new village, and that she will sell it for as much in a year or two as the whole place and house cost eight years ago. This is in fact the spirit which pervades *la jeune France*. But this spirit does not destroy the intellect, grace, genius and refinement for which old France was so celebrated. No such thing. I learned more of the real spirit and character of Paris and of France in half an hour's conversation with this lady than I could have done in a year by my own single researches. What a mighty power a woman of intellect and genius welds in a social system so constituted as is that of France! May I not add that of the United States? In every country the same causes produce the same effects. It is an axiom in morals as well as in mathematics. The perfect social equality and destruction of primogenitures in France and the United States are opening and have opened the high road of distinction to talent, genius and worth from any rank of society and to every sex.

* * * * * * * *

My heavens! I have forgot the dinner. No matter, it was excellent, in the French style—the wines the most *recherché* of France, and some of them not to be tasted out of Paris. There is no one that can admire and enjoy the nosegay perfumes of the richest Burgundy more than I do; but the etherial perfumes of a female intellect—of a fine genius—I relish and admire still more. But of this some exquisite recollections on may return.

RELIGION IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

An article headed a "Conspiracy against the Public Schools" appeared in the *Tribune* of the 19th inst., which I am compelled to notice in consequence of the bigoted spirit of the writer. The statements made therein concerning the pretended absorption of the school fund into the Catholic treasury to be used for purposes of "Catholic" education I believe to be false. The writer cites some sections of the resolutions offered in our Legislature by Assemblyman Hitchman and others as his authority. His authority, however, is very slim, as not an idea is expressed to warrant or justify his reasoning that because a party legislates or manœuvres to obtain control of an important object in the local government such legislation was for the benefit of any particular faith. Not considering, however, the intention of the framers of the objectionable resolution. It is an indisputable fact that the common schools of this city are essentially Protestant in their nature. Some may say this is not so; that no religion is preferred in the schools. This, 'tis true, may appear to be the case, but I will endeavor to prove different. If the schools are not Protestant in their nature why have we the reading of the Protestant and the exclusion of the Catholic, Jewish or any other Bible or religious teaching? Why the chanting of Protestant hymns, &c., and the exclusive habit of prayers by Protestant clergymen at the public exhibitions? Why, also, is it that Catholic children feel so out of place and afraid to acknowledge their faith in public schools, if there is no partiality shown to the Protestant religion. Our *Tribune* writer is so afraid of Catholic innovation as actually to construe party avarice for more power into an attempt to throw into private hands public money—into the hands, in fact, of the most despised and ridiculed but nevertheless true faith. The Catholics of this city have risen from almost nothing to the position of respect they now occupy, through the sterling worth of the faith itself, and the integrity of its ministry and professors. So it has overcome the bitter Know Nothings and survived the attacks of other bigots. Poor as the members of the Church usually are, they educate their children in schools of their own building. Altogether, I have come to these conclusions:—1. That the writer of the *Tribune* article is either an intolerant bigot or wilful fanatic, seeing no truth outside himself. 2. That the public schools of New York, if professedly schools of free education, should discard all show of particular creeds, since it is impossible to profess all creeds. 3. That the *Tribune* writer has misconstrued party corruption for attempted religious ascendancy, when there is no connection between his belief and the facts. It being an injustice to all religions to favor one, let all be discarded from the schools. Let the people bring up their children in their own faith and the matter will be settled.

SINGULAR EPIDEMIC.—A fatal epidemic prevails at Sandersonville, Ga. From Sunday morning to Tuesday evening there were seven deaths in the village, all children. The doctors say that the disease is an inflammation of the membrane covering the brain, the symptoms resembling very much those observed in congestive chills. The attack usually begins with a feeling of dumb pain or numbness in the arms and lower limbs, and in a few hours the disease runs its course.

MEXICO.

Cessation of Executions—Terrorism in Yucatan—Riva Palacios' Advice to Juarez—Warfare of Cubans Against Spaniards—New Massacres by the Indians—Colonel Mayer, of the United States Army.

HAVANA, March 20, 1869.

The French steamer Panama, from Vera Cruz on the 14th inst., arrived here on the 17th, with mail dates from the Mexican capital to the 10th inst.

Several of the captured prisoners belonging to the revolted regiment in Puebla, whose sentence was commuted by President Juarez, have sent him a vote of thanks for sparing their lives.

Among the hopeful followers that joined Negrete in his recent *pronunciamiento* was J. P. Garcia. He made his escape and got up a force, which, however, was completely defeated in Chiantla by Colonel Garza on the 1st inst.

Simon Gutierrez, the kidnapper, who was lately captured and arraigned, has, in his defence, denounced General Cauto as his principal, and it was proven that Gutierrez had been in the habit of kidnapping preconcertedly certain individuals by Cauto's special orders. The people entertained no doubt as to Cauto being the assassin of General Patoni. Subsequent advices state that both Cauto and Gutierrez were tried and convicted as "plagiarios," adding that both had been shot.

In San Luis Potosi numerous towns had energetically protested against the late acts of the Legislature. A party of *pronunciados* appeared lately near Salinas del Peñon. Part of the Third division of troops went in pursuit to prevent the former joining the rebels of Tamaulipas.

The attempt of Vargas and Cuesta to surprise the troops under Martinez was foiled. He was too well prepared for them. They were promptly repulsed and suffered severe losses.

General Vicente Rivas Palacios has urgently advised President Juarez to effect a change of ministers as the only remedy to save the country from utter ruin. So far no change has been made.

El Globo taunts *El Diario Oficial* to explain the origin of a payment lately made to President Juarez by the Treasury amounting to $83,000.

Private letters from Yucatan state that there were still many prisoners kept in confinement since the late revolt in Merida. Others, equally innocent, were missing and hunted after, afraid of being condemned without any trial, as was the case with those shot. Colonel Ceballos was keeping the State in consternation.

Advices from Saltillo to 1st inst. state that the Indians had reappeared on the frontiers of New Leon and Coahuila and slaughtered forty victims. At last dates they were only thirty miles from Monterey, near Morales.

A private letter from Vera Cruz has the following:—"There is a sort of warfare going on in this city between Cubans and Mexicans against the Spaniards, who are as intolerant and bloodthirsty here as they are in Havana."

Colonel Mayer, who is mentioned as being connected with Negrete's *pronunciamiento*, and now a prisoner detained in Cuernavaca, is a native of the Argentine Republic. He was formerly a lieutenant colonel of a colored regiment attached to the Twenty-fifth army corps, under General Weitzel. While stationed at Ringgold barracks, on the Rio Grande, in 1865 he formed the acquaintance of General Escobedo, then operating with a handful of ragged followers in Northern Tamaulipas, with his headquarters at Camargo. An intimacy sprang up between him and that since famous chief, and when, upon the expiration of the term of service of his regiment, he was mustered out, he accepted a colonel's commission in the liberal service. From that time he took an active part in all the operations of the combined liberal forces under Escobedo, ending in the surrender of Querétaro. Though a brave man and capable officer his advancement was retarded by that jealousy of foreigners so instinctive in the breast of Mexicans. Upon the establishment of peace he was retained in the army with his old rank, but was extremely bitter towards the government for its neglect of his claims. Counting too much on the great unpopularity of the Juarez administration and no doubt hoping for advancement under another, he attached himself to the ill-starred rebellion of Negrete, was captured and is now held a prisoner, fortunate in not having been made a victim of that carnival of blood which followed, and which Juarez has been compelled by public opinion to stop. He will probably be sentenced to imprisonment or banished from the country.

HORSE NOTES.

Professor Hamilton has opened a school of instruction in the art of horse breaking. He is a master of the art he professes to teach, which is a modification of Rarey's, and certainly an improvement on his plan of rendering the horse obedient to his master. He illustrates his lessons practically by bringing forward horses that he has trained to perform in a certain way, and shows the manner by which they have acquired the knowledge of what he wants them to do. Trick horses are no more intelligent than others; but his method of imparting information to the horse is so precise that the animal has no difficulty in comprehending it, and obeys with cheerfulness when he once understands what is required of him. The manner in which vice is acquired by horses is fully illustrated by the professor, together with the means of prevention and cure. Such of his illustrations as we have seen have been sufficient to convince us of the reality of his professions, and that there are but few dangerous and disagreeable habits of the horse of which he cannot be broken. There appears to be little or no danger to the horse in Mr. Hamilton's mode of procedure, or at least nothing more than what is consequent on a certain degree of exhaustion necessitated by the efforts of the professor to acquire control over his subjects.

Sam McLaughlin says that he is anxious to trot Mountain Boy against any horse in the world, mile heats, best three in five, in harness, over the Union Course, during the month of May, for from $1,000 to $5,000 a side. Mr. Lovell, the owner of American Girl, is also willing to match her for $1,000 against any horse, mare or gelding, two races, one in harness and the other to wagons, mile heats, best three in five, the trots to come off on 2d and 9th of May, one at the Union and the other at the Fashion Course. And Mr. Lovell further says that if McLaughlin will not trot at the Fashion Course he will trot him both races at the Union Course on the days specified above. Will these matches be made? Is there any reality in these manifestations, or are they merely intended as laudations of their respective horses?

On the 26th of April Lady Lovell, Jimmy O'Brien, Red Rover and Mr. Hendricks' bay mare trot for a sweepstakes at the Fashion Course, mile heats, best three in five, in harness. On the same day Mr. Lovell's bay gelding Big Jim and Dr. Ogle's sorrel gelding Pet trot a match of mile heats, in harness, for $250 a side. In a week after that they come together in a match for a like amount, two mile heats, their respective owners to drive.

Lately Harlem lane has been alive with trotters, many of the first class horses being driven out for exercise. We have seen few new ones worth mentioning as yet. We hear some complaint about the condition of the roads, and learn that they have not been worked since election time.

Horse feed of every description is uncommonly low at present; but livery stable keepers do not seem to comprehend that fact, as their charges are quite as high as they have been at any previous period. When the high prices consequent upon the change of our currency were inaugurated they were about the first to take advantage of the new order of things, and their excessive prices have been maintained without abatement from that time to the present, without the remotest probability of a change for the better.

Notwithstanding all the efforts of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to ameliorate the condition of the horse in this city, cases of brutality are continually taking place, particularly among car and omnibus horses, which, in addition to their daily drudgery, are too frequently made to experience the severity of the lash through faults not of their own but of their drivers. We see no reason why the police do not afford more efficient aid in the suppression of this cruelty than they do. Their business is on the thoroughfares, and scenes of cruelty must daily pass before their eyes. Let them join their efforts with those of the society, and we shall soon see a better state of things in relation to an animal that is at once the assistant of man in his labors and a companion in his pleasures.

ASSASSINATION IN PENNSYLVANIA.—Another victim has been added to those murdered in and around our city. On Saturday evening Ezra High, residing near Poplar Neck Bend, was notified that the body of a human being was floating on the Schuylkill near his home, and procuring a skiff brought out the body of a man, who from appearances proved to have been murdered. When found his hands were tightly bound behind his back and securely tied; his face and mouth securely tied with a shawl or scarf tightly fastened over them; on his neck, in the region of the platysma myoides, a stab made by a sharp pointed instrument, supposed to have been a dagger, reaching nearly through, and of itself enough to produce death. The body had evidently been for some weeks in the water and was very much decomposed. He was apparently a young man, was well dressed, but did not have the least matter in any of his pockets—nothing of any kind—and is supposed to have been in the water some twenty days. The body was brought to the city by Mr. Heninger, where it now is. The handkerchief with which his hands were tied and the shawl or scarf with which he was gagged are in the hands of officers who will try to ferret out the matter, and if possible discover the men in our midst who do these murders. There is evidently in our midst a band of thieves who will murder to prevent their being detected, and our people seem to be entirely helpless under the present police arrangement—an arrangement which does not seem to in the least protect the lives or the property of our people unless there is money in rewards or costs to be made out of it. It may be necessary soon to form from among our people a vigilance committee—one that will rid our community of the thieves and murderers in it, and place us in a position of safety, which our police force does not seem desirous of doing.—*Reading (Pa.) Times, March 22.*

FASHION OPENING DAY.

A Stroll Through Broadway—The Devotees of Fashion on the Great Promenade.

To-day, dearest, is ours;
 Why should love carelessly lose it?
This life shines on bowers
 Just as we weak mortals use it.
'Tis time enough when its flowers decay
 To think of the thorns of sorrow,
And Fashion, if left in the store to-day,
 May wither before to-morrow.

Thus paraphrasing the beautiful song of Tom Moore all the ladies and all the world of beauty of New York must have soliloquized yesterday as they

 —— came from brick and brown stone shells,
 In dresses fine and costumes gay,
 And sparkled out among the belles
 To bicker down—Broadway.

And the day was so "beautiful," so "charming," so "lovely:" it was the sunny month of May transformed into March—that usually bleak, boisterous month of dust and rain and equinoctial storms. The sun shone bright from early morn, no cloudlet, not even any "as big as a man's hand," obscured his soft rays; the day of spring had actually come at last, and the bud of fashion had burst its wintry prison walls and opened to the balmy touch of spring.

With almost mathematical precision and astronomical foresight this day had been selected as "opening" day by all whose business and profit it is to provide fashionable attire and articles of female beautification. No better day, meteorologically speaking, could they have selected; for with no other attractions, it in itself was enough to lure every human being into the street to enjoy the healthful balm of the spring atmosphere. Those whose occupations necessarily kept them indoors felt, if never before, disconsolate on this day, and envied the birds of the air their good fortune, who "toil not, neither do they spin," but who could roam about in the sunshine and drink, in the full drafts, the soft breezes of budding spring. And that the ladies, the dear creatures, profited by the occasion and sallied forth by thousands, is unnecessary to detail; for on such a day who would stay at home if it be possible to go out? and, particularly, who of the fair sex when thousands of new bonnets are to be placed on exhibition and all the thousand and one other things that go to make up the dress of a lady, in innumerable quantities, newly trimmed and fashioned to suit the ever changing taste of the day? Hence Broadway, from Canal street to Madison square and some of the side streets for a block or two west of it, from Clinton place to Fourteenth street, were literally crowded from shortly before noon till late in the afternoon. It was a constant surging hitherway and thitherway of the best half of humanity—here stopping at show windows, there entering or leaving a store, here nodding to an acquaintance, there smiling and greeting a friend with sincere, or, as it may have been in some cases, with feigned delight. And everywhere was chatting and laughing among themselves, criticising what they had seen, praising and extolling what they had bought, directing each other to this or that store where the best and most expensive and occasionally where the best and cheapest might be got.

At the "Grecian Bend" of Broadway, the slight curve it takes to the northwest on Tenth street, the sight either way was one to be remembered forever. Way down towards Canal street to the south, and far beyond Union square on the north, the observer, if his standing point was somewhat elevated from the level of the street, could see either sidewalk, particularly on the west, was filled with apparently happy people, all determined to enjoy the long-sought for release from the snowy thraldom of late winter. And in the roadway, from curb to curb, not the usual number of lumbering stages, trucks and carts only, but splendid equipages, open phaetons, such as are generally seen only in the Park on a bright early summer's afternoon. This turnout of fashion and wealth on wheels was so great on this thoroughfare yesterday that at many points the patrolmen of the Broadway squad of the police had to interfere to prevent a complete blockade of the street, and they had to be constantly on the alert to escort ladies across—a thing that had heretofore been known to occur in the more crowded business parts of Broadway down town for several hours in succession. At the junction of Broadway and Fifth avenue or Madison square the sight which met one's eye reminded one strongly of the view presented by the Boulevard des Italiens in Paris, the Ring strasse in Vienna or Unter den Linden in Berlin, on a great national *fête* day.

But with all this happiness and splendor, with all this grand display of beauty, wealth and fashion, there was commingled a thread of sorrow which could not be overlooked. Poor, maimed soldiers of the late war, one legged and one armed, sat on the curb of nearly every street corner grinding out familiar tunes from their wheezy hand organs, placing an empty cigar box on the instrument inviting the surplus pennies or small "stamps" of their happier countrymen and countrywomen as they passed in search for joy, amusement and opportunities for shopping. But few had any feeling of commiseration with these poor "relics of the barbarism" of war, and their cigar boxes remained mostly empty. Two exceptions only could be noticed. On the corner of Twenty-first street and Broadway two quite young fellows, once evidently jolly tars in Uncle Sam's "web-footed" navy, both of whom had lost an arm and a leg each, were more plentifully rewarded. And on the corner of Washington place and Broadway a crippled soldier had by his side his wife, who bore in her arms a brace of most beautiful twins. Two out of every three of the ladies that passed this group stopped and would not go farther till they had a glimpse of the sleeping innocents in their mother's lap and merited a mother's joyful thanks by a handsome present "for the darling little ones, you know." Bless those women, for they had a mother's true love in their hearts, and, though it was opening day, they remembered the "little ones" of the poor. May the day have brought genuine and lasting gladness and cause for devout gratitude to many more!

STREET OBSTRUCTIONS.

The Condition of Fifth Avenue—The Builders in Full Possession and No Interference.

Some time ago, owing to the urgency of the HERALD, the Rip Van Winkles of the Street Department were shaken from their official lethargy and made to understand that, from time to time, since the State of New York was organized, laws had been passed which they were expected to enforce; but, of course, waking up suddenly does not always leave everybody with a very clear head, nor were the Street Commissioner's folks an exception to the general rule when they were woke up; for, after they had rubbed their eyes a little and yawned a little, and stretched more than they yawned, they went to work to do their duty in keeping the streets free from all obstructions. The flag poles—probably because of their height—were the first objects their eyes lit upon, and straightway a jolly raid was made upon the unfortunate perpendiculars; then, flushed with a certain amount of glory and anything else that came handy, they provoked the unfortunate peanut women into a war and made a general and very commendable charge upon all their small outhouses, which have disfigured our public squares and sidewalks for many years past. All this done, a sort of armistice was, to all appearance, declared between the parties of the first part and the parties of the second part, and then the Street Commissioner's folks laid down to take their usual official snooze. Now, any person who cares to drive about through the more prominent of the large thoroughfares of the city at present cannot fail to be struck by their uniformity in the way of a plentifulness of obstructions, made by builders who have houses under construction. It may be all very well to do away with hateful signs that disfigure the beauty of the city, flag poles that are very harmless in themselves if well let alone, and booths that are always in the way, no matter where one finds them or who makes his "pile" out of them; but they are nothing as obstructions or nuisances compared with those made by the builders in taking possession of the public thoroughfares as so many brickyards free of rent. Fifth avenue is especially noticeable just now for the number of obstructions of this description. This avenue is the driving thoroughfare of the metropolis, and should of all others be kept in a proper condition. That the Street Commissioner has full authority in the matter of having the obstructions removed the following section (21st) of Article II. of the laws relative to the Street Department will abundantly show:—

> He may direct the removal of any article or thing whatsoever which may incumber or obstruct a street or avenue, wharf or pier in the city of New York, under the penalties prescribed by law.

The following are the obstructions in Fifth avenue:—

Southwest corner of Fortieth street—The side street almost entirely blocked up by immense piles of brick. The house being built belongs to Mr. Kipp; the builder is a Mr Woodruff.

Northeast corner of Fortieth street—Sand and brick piles. The contractor is Mr. Lynch.

Northeast corner of Forty-fifth street—Three buildings are being erected, and in front of them, in the street, are piles of sand and mortar. Dr. Howland is the owner of one of the houses and Mr. Owens the builder.

Between Forty-fifth and Forty-sixth streets four houses are being erected; piles of sand and mortar lying in the street. F. G. Churchill is the owner of the buildings; Mr. Andrews the mason.

Southwest corner of Forty-seventh street, three houses are being erected, and before each are piles of sand and brick. Mr. Andrews is the builder.

Northeast corner of Forty-seventh street, a new house going up. There are in the street in front of it mounds of sand and brick, and piles of planks line one-half the block northward from it. Ex-Mayor Opdyke is the owner; R. L. Darragh the builder.

Northwest corner of Forty-eighth street the sidewalk for half a block is covered with huge granite blocks for a new Dutch Reform church that is going up there. Mr. Bloodgood is the mason.

Between Forty-ninth and Fiftieth streets there are piles of flap in the way, and just off the avenue, in Forty-ninth street, there are huge sand and brick piles, mounds of mortar and a great number of planks. Mr. Conover is the mason.

Between Fifty-second and Fifty-third streets, on the west side of the avenue, a sewer is being dug. There is no railing about it to prevent a carriage toppling over into it, and the block, for several yards above the cut, is lined with old posts and upturned paving stones.

Piles of stones and planks, which interfere with the carriage way, near Forty-eighth street.

HOLY WEEK.

Maunday Thursday.

The festival ordained for the purpose of commemorating the establishment by our Saviour of the sacrament of the eucharist at the Last Supper, as well as other of the mysteries and circumstances connected with the life and death of Christ, was duly celebrated yesterday in the various Catholic churches throughout the city. The ceremonies prescribed in the Roman ritual are generally of the most imposing and inspiring character, and, when circumstances will permit of their being fully carried out, are almost indescribably grand.

The institution of so great a boon as the eucharist could not be overlooked by the Church, although at this time she is bowed down with grief at the sufferings of her Divine founder, and so on Maunday Thursday the priests wear white vestments and there is a peculiar appearance of mixed joy and grief in the ceremonies. Music is employed and bells are rung to give sweet accompaniment to the *Gloria in Excelsis;* but the expressions of joy there suddenly terminate, and no sounds of music or of bells are heard again until Easter Saturday.

AT ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

the Most Reverend Archbishop McCloskey performed the ceremony of blessing the sacramental oils. Here the scene was animating and imposing in the extreme. His Grace, of course, officiated at the mass, and in the sanctuary assisting was a large number of the leading pastors and clergymen of the diocese. The oils to be blessed were placed in vases on a stand or table and were designated respectively, *oleum infirmorum, Sanctum Chrisma* and *oleum catechumenorum.* The first of these is used in the sacrament of extreme unction, the second in confirmation and the third in baptism. At the appointed times the oils were presented to the Archbishop in the order above mentioned. When, after reciting appropriate prayers, he breathes upon them three times in the form of a cross and the assisting clergymen do the same. Into the vase containing the chrism the Archbishop put a mixture of balm and oil and sings *Ave Sanctum Chrisma* three times, raising his voice a tone higher each time. The assisting priests then, after making a genuflection before the blessed sacrament and bowing to the Archbishop, approach the vase containing the oil, kneeling on both knees three times between the sanctuary rails and the table, and singing at each kneeling, *Ave Sanctum Chrisma,* raising the voice a tone at each repetition. Having reached the table they kissed the edge of the vase and then returned to their places. A similar ceremony is gone through with in the blessing of the other two oils, and at its conclusion the Archbishop proceeds with the mass. At the mass, as previously described in the HERALD, two hosts are consecrated, one of which is consumed at the mass and the other is placed in a repository, prepared for the purpose, to be used at the mass of the presanctified to-day. At the conclusion of the mass a solemn procession was formed and the celebrant bore the extra host with all possible accompaniments of grandeur and magnificence to the repository which had been prepared at one of the side altars. The procession was headed by the procession cross bearer, between two acolytes bearing lighted tapers, then followed a number of acolytes and pages, visiting and assisting clergymen two and two, each holding a lighted taper; then the thurifers or censer bearers swinging their censers; the Archbishop with the deacons of honor under a rich canopy; then the choristers and sodalists attached to the church, chanting the *Pange Lingua,* while the clergy recited the Psalms without the usual ending, the *Gloria Patria.* Having arrived at the repository and the host being placed safely in the tabernacle, the *Tantum Ergo* was sung—the tabernacle and surroundings were incensed by the celebrant, after which the clergy retired to the sacristy. The ceremonies in

THE OTHER CHURCHES

consisted only of the mass and the procession. In each church the repository had been prepared in a manner becoming to the occasion and in keeping with the character of the congregation attending the church. It would be invidious to make any comparison in regard to the elegance of the preparations or decorations. No expense had been spared and the most exquisite flowers, formed into appropriate devices, together with curtains of richest lace, gold and silver ornaments, and innumerable lights, gave a beauty and a brilliancy to the sacred edifices. During the day and evening large crowds visited the different churches and, remaining in each but a short time, viewed the decorations or recited a short appropriate prayer. This custom of visiting the repositories has, for some inexplicable reason, been commonly called "visiting the sepulchres." This is evidently wrong and contrary to the intentions of the Church. It would be rather out of place to bedeck a sepulchre with all the tokens of life and light and magnificence. The sacred Host is placed in the repository, so that the faithful may visit and pay their devotions to the Body of the Lord on the day on which the sacrament of the Eucharist was founded, whereas it could not remain at the general altar, as immediately after the mass the officiating priest and his assistants divest the altar of its ornaments and coverings, to represent the stripping of our Saviour by the Jewish soldiers.

During the ceremony of stripping the altar the priest chants the psalm *Deus, Deus meus* and the antiphon *Diviserunt sibi vestimenta mea, et super vestem meam miserunt sortem* (They divided my garments among them, and over my vestments they cast lots). In the evening the *Tenebræ* is sung, as on the previous evening, and at the repository a continued watch is kept until the ceremonies of

Good Friday.

To-day this festival is solemnized, and, judging from existing circumstances, the day will be more generally observed this year than it has been heretofore in the metropolis. The stock boards and many commercial and other business establishments will be closed, and the churches will be open and, no doubt, largely attended by all denominations of Christians. In the Catholic churches the ceremonies will be most solemn. The altars were yesterday divested of all dressing and ornamentation, and at the beginning of the services to-day will present a most sombre aspect. The ceremonies will commence with the unveiling of the cross, which is done by the officiating clergyman and his assistants, who are all robed in black. A small portion of the cross is uncovered at a time, whereupon the celebrant chants aloud, "*Ecce lignum crucis*"—(Behold the wood of the cross). The assistants then kneeling, answer, "*Flectamus genua*" (let us bend the knee). When the cross has been entirely uncovered the celebrant, kneeling on both knees, bows before the crucifix three times and then kisses the head and feet of the figure on the cross. The assisting priests do the same in turn, to signify their humble submission to the will of God in giving up His only son to die on the cross and the veneration with which they regarded the wounds inflicted on their Divine Redeemer. The faithful present then approach the altar rails and reverently kiss the crucifix, while the assisting clergy prepare and adjust the coverings on the altar. This being done a procession is formed near the repository, whence the officiating clergy repair and bring back the Host, which had been placed there on Thursday. The mass of the pre-sanctified is then performed, and in the evening the *Tenebræ* is given for the last time.

DID NOT FIGHT A DUEL.

IN THE FIELD, Indian Territory, Feb. 18, 1869.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK HERALD:—

Your Washington correspondence published December 28 gives my name and regiment in referring to the army officer who had recently fought a duel with a party near that city. I have never in any way been connected with any duel, under any circumstances whatever. Permit me to so far trespass upon your space as to make this correction.

CHARLES BREWSTER, United States Army.

POLITICAL MOVEMENTS.

The Next United States Senator from Ohio.

[From the Cincinnati Enquirer (democratic), March 24.]

We learn that there is an impression prevailing among some of the republican office seekers, that the Legislature of Ohio, to be chosen in October next, will have, as a part of its duties, the election of a United States Senator, in place of John Sherman, and that they have booked General Schenck for that place. This is a mistake. John Sherman's term as Senator does not expire until the 4th of March, 1873. His successor will be chosen by the Legislature which is elected in Ohio, in October, 1871. When chosen, he will doubtless be a democrat. Ohio has got through electing republican United States Senators. Her General Assemblies hereafter will be democratic. The new programme was started when Judge Thurman was elected, and it will be rigidly adhered to. If General Schenck is put off in his aspirations for office by the shadow of a Senatorship he will find to his cost that he has a very distant "bird in a bush" that it will be impossible for him to "bag."

PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS.

Old Clapp Knocked Up.

[From the Toledo Blade (republican), March 23.]

The Senate has also nominated an officer for Congressional Printer who is ineligible. Mr. Clapp, the nominee of the Senate caucus, is publisher of a Buffalo newspaper. The act of June, 1860, concerning the public printing, reads as follows:—"Neither the superintendent nor any other officer to be appointed under this act shall, during his continuance in office, have an interest, direct or indirect, in the publishing of any newspaper or periodical or any printing of any kind." The penalty for violation of the law is imprisonment in the Penitentiary for not less than one nor more than five years and a fine of $500.

The New Assistant Secretary of State.

[From the Albany (N. Y.) Argus—democratic State organ—March 25.]

The announcement yesterday that Hon. J. C. Bancroft Davis, member of Assembly from Orange, had been appointed Assistant Secretary of State, was a pleasant surprise to his numerous warm friends in this city. His course in the House had made him a universal favorite, and he was as heartily congratulated by democrats as by republicans. His knowledge of diplomatic affairs, his conceded ability and cultivated manners eminently qualify him for the position. His appointment is the most popular one of the new administration.

THE BODY SNATCHING RING.

How They Do Things in the Coroners' Office—Skilful Strategy to Multiply Fees—Throwing the Veil Over Crime—Murder as One of the Fine Arts—An Expose in the Matter of Post Mortem Examinations.

The most vivid fancies of the most exuberant writers of fiction have failed in their far reaching flights of the imagination, in essaying descriptions of the "mysteries and miseries of the metropolis," to give anything approaching the sad and stern realities of plain and positive fact. Their woven webs of fiction are slimsy shoddy, lacking continuity and strength. The bold ruggedness of truth is wanting; the undercurrent running sluggish and deep is not revealed; the mass of corruption and rottenness at the bottom is not probed and its nether foulness laid bare to the public gaze. Those who undertake to tell the facts do not half tell them because they do not half know them. Peter Cooper and his cohorts, marshalled to combat municipal corruption, make a big noise with their heavy artillery, but they shoot at long range and do no possible harm. Bergh, whose tender sensibilities quiver at the slightest sound of distress emanating from one of the brute creation, gets up a great hue and cry about cruelty to dumb animals and excites wondrous sympathy for these poor unfortunates, while the more terrible abuses heaped upon the great flood of humanity all about us go unheeded and unchecked. Meantime the pulpit and the press only indulge in glittering generalities. How really stands the case? To get at the bottom of the "mysteries and miseries of the metropolis" we must get at the bottom of the "rings," under the control of which our present municipal government lives and moves and has its being. To purify our city from political corruption and the consequences of filling our offices with pothouse politicians these "rings" must be broken up. It is unnecessary to recapitulate these rings. Their name is Legion. They exist in almost every department and branch of the city government. They are close combinations. They prey on the public. They fatten on fees. They become purseproud on perquisites. As a sample specimen of the working of these "rings" we give below some facts connected with the "coroners' ring," as it is more popularly known, but recently and very appropriately characterized by an eminent surgeon of the city as the "body snatchers' ring."

In those good old primitive days when the Battery was the great park of the city and Beekman street our Fifth avenue the coroners of the city were selected for their special fitness for the place. Gentlemen of established repute in the medical profession were the only incumbents of the office. These discharged their duties with promptness and fidelity. It continued thus through many years; through that long and pleasant period of our municipal history when the places of aldermen were only filled by men of established integrity and weight in the community, and before corruption crept into politics and our Common Council Chambers exhibited the present sad spectacle of unceasing and unscrupulous scrambling for spoils. It is unnecessary to tell how the coroners are now elected. It is equally unnecessary to tell from what class of men they are now chosen. Everybody knows how primary elections are managed, how nominations are secured, and how on the "vote early and vote often" system the final elections are accomplished. Everybody also knows that the question of fitness for the place has nothing to do with the matter. Greenbacks, muscle and whiskey do the entire work. Of course an occasional good and fitting and reliable and honest man gets elected, but these are exceptional cases and as rare as exceptional. These do not get into the "ring," and neither do they get the benefit of the extra perquisites reaped by those in the "ring." The system by which the present "ring," composed of one or more coroners, several doctors, apothecaries and undertakers, are enriching themselves at the expense of the public, is as shamelessly vile as it is iniquitously barefaced. The office is a feed office. To multiply the fees is the sole aim. For every witness so much is allowed. To get as many witnesses as possible on the case, no matter how unimportant or corroborative their testimony, is the first object. To carry this out in every case involves time and labor, and a short way of getting at it is said to be to put down as many witnesses as the case will decently stand, and thus combine skilful strategy with despatch. For each juror there is also something allowed, but who ever heard of a juror ever getting anything? Besides, a good share of the juries are made of the same persons, the coroner's deputy or clerk acting in such cases as the irrepressible foreman, and take it, for instance, at Bellevue Hospital, where the "Morgue" is, and a majority of the inquests are held, the minor subordinates of the place being universally put on jury duty, an occasional drink at a contiguous rumshop paying them for the trouble of signing their names; for as regards listening to the testimony, this is a matter of no consequence whatever. The irrepressible foreman fixes up the verdict. And here the beauty of the irrepressible foreman system is apparent. Let a fatal railroad casualty occur. The company are not anxious to be mulcted in a round sum of damages for the carelessness of their employés, and so the affair is all amicably arranged at the inquest. Acting upon the same defensive principle of taking time by the forelock, abortionists, physicians guilty of malpractice, careless druggists, positive practitioners of the Lucretia Borgia school of poisoning, and even murderers, may stay the uplifted hand of justice and escape the penalty of their crimes.

Atrociously wicked and criminally unpardonable as all this is, there is another phase of vile depravity, for the sake of multiplying their pecuniary spoils, still to be exposed. This is the subject of post mortem examinations. For every post mortem examination there is allowed forty dollars, and hence the importance in a pecuniary point of view to have as many post mortem examinations as possible. A case has just found its way into print, as stated by Dr. Edward H. Dixon. He had attended an old and highly respectable gentleman who had a fall on the ice, and after three weeks died, exhausted from age and the effects of his injuries. Upon his death the doctor gave a certificate stating all the facts of the case *seriatum*, according to law. Three days after death, when every arrangement had been made for interment and the hearse had arrived for taking the body to the church, a notification came that the remains, before burial, must be submitted to a post mortem examination, and that Dr. Harris, the Health Officer, had ordered such examination to be made. The statement about Dr. Harris ordering the post mortem examination proved to be false. It is to be regretted that Dr. Dixon does not give the name of the parties to this transaction, so that they may be branded with the infamy they deserve. Another case is told of a gentleman who, a few days ago, in Thirty-fourth street, died of a lingering consumption. The deceased had been regularly attended, and a certificate of death was furnished, duly signed by the physician in attendance, and yet an inquest was insisted on, the body taken from the coffin, and a post mortem examination made.

It is unnecessary to multiply instances like the above. Wherever the opportunity offers, for the sake of forty dollars, this ring, in the pretended interests of science, barbarously outrage the feelings of sorrowing relatives, and, in fact, every decent feeling of humanity. Christian burial they deny the dead. They are little else than body snatchers. This coroners' ring estimate their expenses this year at $51,500, and thus it stands in the Comptroller's budget. We have seen how they make up their expenses.

THE OCEAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

The American End to be Landed in Duxbury, Mass.—Favorable Action of the Massachusets Legislature.

BOSTON, March 24, 1869.

It is now pretty definitely settled that the American terminus of the proposed French cable will be in the town of Duxbury, Plymouth county, Mass. A point of land to receive it has already been purchased, and in a few days buildings for offices and other purposes will be erected. The opposition to the landing of the cable at the point designated, which was manifested in the Legislature, has been overcome and the necessary bill has passed its various branches in the House and will undoubtedly go through the Senate with but little opposition. The bill, as passed, is as follows:—

SECTION 1. George M. Dexter, Joshua Lovett and William R. Robeson, Jr., their associates and successors, are hereby made a corporation by the name of the Ocean Telegraph Company, and are hereby authorized to lay and maintain a telegraph cable in and over the waters, shores and lands of this Commonwealth, from some point or points on the shore of the county of Plymouth to the open sea, and to connect the same with any foreign telegraph cable, and are also authorized to construct, maintain and use a line of telegraph from such point on said shore to any point within the limits of said Commonwealth, with all the powers and privileges, and subject to all the duties, liabilities and restrictions set forth in all general laws that now are or may hereafter be in force relating to telegraph companies; provided, that said company shall establish and maintain within one mile of the shore landing of its cable an office at which it shall receive and promptly transmit, at a uniform price, over its cable, in the order in which they are received, all messages delivered at said office by any telegraph company now or hereafter to be established; and further provided, that it shall give all replies to despatches so transmitted to the company sending the despatch replied to.

SEC. 2. Said corporation may hold such real and personal estate as may be necessary for the purpose aforesaid; but the capital stock shall not exceed $100,000.

SEC. 3. If within two years from the passage of this act $25,000 shall not have been subscribed and paid in, in cash, on said capital stock, and five miles of telegraph constructed, or if the franchise, charter or any portion of the telegraph line of the said corporation shall be sold or offered for sale to any existing telegraph company, or to any persons or association of persons before the conditions of this section shall have been complied with, then this act shall be void.

SEC. 4. The Legislature may, from time to time, alter or reduce the rates of toll charged by said corporation; provided said tolls shall not, without the consent of said corporation, be so reduced as to produce a clear net profit of less than ten per cent a year on the capital actually paid in.

SEC. 5. This act shall take effect upon its passage.