CUBA.

The Steamship Bienville on Fire—Safety of Passengers and Crew—The News from Cuba.

The steamship Bienville, which put into Norfolk, as reported in our issue yesterday, left Havana on the 21st for New York with a full list of passengers and 150 United States troops on board. About eleven P. M. of the 24th an alarm of fire on board was sounded, and passengers and crew were all ordered on deck in case it should be necessary to abandon the ship. The officers immediately applied every energy to discover and subdue the fire, while the ship was headed for the land, Cape Hatteras bearing southwest, about fifteen miles distant. After an hour of anxious exertion the fire was subdued and the passengers were permitted to go below.

Our informant, Mr. Smith, of the firm of Youngs, Smith & Co., 78 South street, states that great presence of mind was displayed by the officers and prompt obedience by the passengers and crew. The ship, however, put into Fortress Monroe, from whence we have received our correspondence, given below, in which will be found the latest news of operations in Cuba.

Spanish Accounts of Matters in Camaguey—The Road to Principe Opened—Operations of Insurgents—Reported Massacre by the Spaniards—Volunteers Likely to Take the Field.

HAVANA, May 20, 1869.

The *Diario de la Marina* of the 18th gives the Spanish version of affairs in Camagueay. Lesca arrived at Puerto Principe from Nuevitas with the convoy of provisions on the 5th. He brought with him a quantity of rails, sleepers and parts of the machinery of a locomotive, necessary to reconstruct the one in the former place. On his arrival fabulous prices were obtained for eatables; for example, one dollar for a pound of coffee, fifty cents for a small biscuit, one dollar a bottle for rum, twenty dollars per hundred weight for rice, and other things in proportion. Subsequently Lesca issued an order to prevent speculation in the necessaries of life and established reasonable and, at the same time, remunerative prices. No additional details of the encounters along the road are given. It is mentioned that Quesada has the tact to offer battle near savannahs so that he can escape with his followers, and that he did so at Altagracia, where the convoy was joined by the column which had gone out from Puerto Principe to meet it. As stated, he owed his preservation to the fleetness of his horse. The point of interest in this statement is the admission that Quesada sometimes offers battle instead of always running away as claimed; for according to the patriot official account heretofore published in the HERALD he was not at the fight at Altagracia.

A train left Puerto Principe on the 12th for Nuevitas, drawn by a locomotive, and arrived on the 16th, being detained in repairing the road and bridges, which the insurgents were constantly destroying both before and behind the train. It started back on the same day. It is stated that on the 12th, the time the train left, Lesca went out with a column composed of infantry, cavalry and artillery, to attack the rebel camp at Ceuta; that, on his arrival, the rebels fled, abandoning their fortifications. However, as Letona had previously reported his occupation of that place, the statement is probably incorrect. After the convoy had gone out from Neuvitas it came upon a figure with the hide and form of a cow, and upon it a placard with the following, in large letters:—"When this cow gives milk the engine will pass with the train." It was supposed that a desperate effort would be made to destroy the convoy. Letona is on the line of the road, moving from point to point, evidently, as his column is reported at different places. In Bayatabo, three miles from Minas, the insurgents had established what was known as "detention quarters," where, as says the account, a large number of families were closely watched, to prevent their presenting themselves to the General. On the approach of the troops under Letona they set fire to the encampment and abandoned it. A large number of the women and children were carried to Minas, where is stationed a strong detachment. The number of these unfortunates may be set down at 600. The General had assigned them ground on the lands of the Marquis of Santa Lucia upon which to build huts.

The Spaniards report that the insurgent force of Camaguey does not exceed 5,000 men; that they are badly mounted and worse armed, they having in their various forays lost many horses. They are in want of salt, rice and flour, now sustaining themselves on meat and vegetables, of which they have abundance, seasoning them with lime juice. The heavy rains, however, will soon deprive them of vegetables.

Napoleon Arango and his brother were still prisoners. The sentence of death passed upon them had been commuted to perpetual imprisonment through the influence of Cespedes and their brother Aurelia, one of the New York Junta.

It was rumored that Sibanicu, Cascorro and Guaimaro had been ordered to be burned by the insurgents; but this is not creditable. Aguilera was at the latter place. A number of rebels had arrived in Camaguey from Cinco Villas. In speaking of the operations about Puerto Principe during the past six months the *Diario* admits that no action decisive in its character has taken place, and that the loss of the troops in the various encounters would foot up as high as 1,000 men. Before the insurrection the population of Camaguey was 40,000. Of this number full 25,000 have abandoned their homes and taken to the fields and forests.

The captain of a Spanish coasting steamer brings the almost incredible report that the troops came upon an encampment of women, children and old persons, and a general massacre followed. The force was of Lesca's command, and a serious difficulty had arisen between him and Letona on account of the affair.

The United States gunboat Penobscot, Lieutenant Commander Eastman, arrived here on Monday, having left Nuevitas on the 15th. The commander confirms the arrival of a train from Puerto Principe, which was guarded on its way down by 2,000 men walking alongside of the cars. The rebels were very active all around, destroying the bridges and doing all possible to impede the progress.

Advices from Gibara, Puerto Padre and Manati confirm the reported presence there of the insurgent chiefs Marmol, Marcano and Bratta. The steamer Triunfo recently took to the former place two companies of the Guides of Madrid and the battalion of foot artillery, and the Moctezuma took the Fifth battalion of mobilized volunteers and some companies of the Napoles regulars. As soon as the insurgents heard of their landing they set fire to the towns of Santa Barbara, San Andres and Maniabon. They also destroyed two sugar estates. The prompt movements of the troops prevented the destruction of the large store houses at Puerto Padre. The forces in Gibara have been doing little or nothing for some months past, and the arrival of reinforcements there will doubtless give an impetus to operations. An expedition is reported landed in Gibara and another on the south side.

There was a rumor very generally current among the Spaniards upon the wharf yesterday that Valmaseda had been defeated by Marmol, and compelled to fall back on Manzanillo.

A German gentleman, who arrived on Saturday, the 15th, from Trinidad, reports that just before he left about fifty wounded soldiers and volunteers had been brought in from outside the town. Another account states that of a force of 200 which went out only sixty had returned.

The question of giving the command of the volunteers to regular army officers is being agitated somewhat in the Havana press, and is regarded as the incipient step towards preparing the volunteers for the field, to which point it must inevitably come. *La Voz de Cuba* states that it has received suggestions from different parts of the island recommending the appointments referred to.

At the late private meeting of wealthy Spaniards, referred to in a recent despatch, the question of the sale of the island came up and was not unfavorably received.

It has been generally understood of late that the *Prensa* (newspaper) was about to suspend publication and the proprietor to leave for Spain. While this may be the ultimate result, that journal will continue for the present.

The Corrion, armed vessel (formerly the Comanditario), arrived on the 18th, with two English wreckers, the Geneva and Julia, in tow, they having been captured some time since near Cape San Antonio, where lay a wrecked vessel. They belong to Great Cayman, and the owners have come here to demand them. The British Consul General has seen the Spanish Admiral in reference thereto, and as there is no reason to suppose that they had any connection with the insurgents they will probably be released after being admonished for coming to these shores under present circumstances.

The steamer Fajaro del Oceano sailed on the 18th for Nuevitas and Santiago, with a few hundred mobilized negroes and some regulars.

The Moctezuma arrived on the 17th from Gibara and Neuvitas with Brigadier Mena, formerly Governor of Puerto Principe, and a number of passengers, who came down on the train from that place; also eleven wounded soldiers.

A decree of Dulce, dated the 15th, contains the necessary regulations for the collection of funds, designed for the maintenance of the second or additional division of Rural Guardia Civil and the establishment of the permanent commission of planters for the management of the corps in the jurisdictions of Sagua, Santa Clara, Cienfuegos, Remedios, Cardenas and Colon. The President and Vice President are to be elected by the directors, who are composed of the largest taxpayers among the agriculturists.

A supplemental circular of Dulce, dated the 13th, orders that before any writs of mortgage be made out in other parts of the island the notaries are to forward the details to the Lieutenant Governors, who are to submit them to the Havana Administrative Council of Sequestered Properties before they can be duly authorized. By order of Dionisio Lopez Roberts, the president of this council, a public sale of several lots of cooperage stock belonging to Don Ignacio Alfaro, a merchant, is advertised.

A Madrid telegram of the 17th announces the promotion of Brigadier Lesca, Commanding General of Puerto Principe, to the rank of Mariscal de Campo, or Major General. This promotion has caused considerable dissatisfaction among the friends of Valmaseda and of Mena, particularly of the latter, who is considered to have borne the brunt in Camaguey. The explanation lies in the fact that Lesca belongs to the new régime and the others to the reign of Isabella.

A telegram from the national capital of the 13th directs that all American vessels are hereafter to pay no more port charges and navigation dues than are levied on Spanish vessels.

Operations in the Eastern Department—Reported Defeat of Troops—Desperate Bravery of Insurgents—The Rainy Season Set In.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, May 14, 1869.

The news of operations in the surrounding country, as officially reported, is extremely limited. The commanding officer at Cobre announces the defeat of a small party of rebels at the coffee estate "Refugio," and the colonel in command at Aserradero reports the death of two insurgent chiefs (of no special note) at the Santa Clara. On the other hand, rumors of encounters in which the troops have been worsted are very current. It is known that some four days since twenty-four soldiers were brought in here wounded. The government accounts make no mention of any action with loss to the troops. The current version of the affair is that Donato or Eduardo Marmol, with a force of insurgents, was surrounded by the Spaniards, and remained so for three days, when, driven to desperation, they attacked the troops on three sides and succeeded in cutting their way through, with great loss on both sides. Yesterday the report of a severe struggle in Intenica reached here. A fight took place during a tremendous rain storm, in which the insurgents showed great bravery, attacking the Spanish macheta in hand. Four officers and some soldiers have been brought in wounded. No official version given.

Arrivals from Brazos de Carito report that district quiet. The weather is very bad, the heat being intense and the rains falling heavily. This must materially affect the health of the troops and military operations generally. Grinding must also become paralyzed, and from all appearances there will not be more than one-third the average crop shipped from Santiago de Cuba. Guantanamo will, however, be quite up to the average, if not beyond it, although cholera has made great havoc on some estates.

The North German corvette Victoria, ten guns, came in on Wednesday, the 12th inst., and exchanged the usual salutes. She will remain here a week and then proceed to Port Royal, Ga.

SPANISH ACCOUNTS.

SAGUA.

The Property of the Fernando Po Prisoners Not Sequestered—Other Properties Attacked.

SAGUA LA GRANDE, May 16, 1869.

Governor Trillo, under dates of the 10th and 13th, notifies the sequestration of the property of Señors Carlos Rodriguez, Antonio Gallart, Felipe Rivers, Luis Acosta and Gabriel Figueroa; also that all contracts made by or compacted with said individuals, from and after the 6th of February last (when the insurrection broke out here), be scrutinized by the authorities within three days from the date of said order.

The papers publish another notice from the Governor, dated the 12th, to the effect that by order of the Captain General the sequestration of property belonging to any of the individuals sent to Fernando Po shall be suspended, not being comprehended in his Excellency's circular of the 20th April last.

REMEDIOS.

More Embargoes of the Properties of Cuban Absentees.

REMEDIOS, May 17, 1869.

An embargo has been recently laid on the estates of Don Marino Jimenez, of Manicaragua, and Don Manuel José Rojas, of Remedios. The latter is a young planter, who inherited large properties from relatives, and he is at present in Madrid, far from thinking what is being done here. Most probably he is quite innocent of any implication in the rebellion.

NUEVITAS.

Movements of the Insurgent Chiefs—Straits of Colonel Benegasi—Partial Visitation of Cholera in Holguin.

NUEVITAS, May 16, 1869.

The steamer Triunfo left on the 11th for Gibara, with the battalion of foot artillery from Havana. These are the heroes of Damuji, Potrerillo and Lechuzo.

The bands of the insurgent General Marmol, forming numerous parties, left San Cristobal lately, and when they arrived in Uñas a very small force of regulars and volunteers was sufficient to put them flying. In this affray the rebels sustained a loss of twenty killed and wounded, while the troops had one volunteer and a soldier wounded.

Colonel Benegasi, with a force of 150 mobilized volunteers, left on the 11th for Velasco, to wait there till the arrival of some regulars. There have appeared some cases of cholera lately in the town. The rebels have burned the plantation of widow Leal.

TRINIDAD.

Official Account of the Encounter in Cabagan.

TRINIDAD, May 15, 1869.

The papers contains the official details of an encounter the troops had with about 500 rebels, who were well entrenched, near Colmenar, in the ward of Cabagan. The enemy had seven killed and a large number wounded. On the part of the troops we have to deplore the loss of three officers killed and two soldiers wounded; among the former was Captain Rodriguez, of the Baza Chasseurs. The papers also give the news of another fight near by, the result of which was as follows:—The firing on both sides was sustained for a quarter of an hour. The troops took nine entrenchments and two redoubts. Some arms were captured. The rebels had twenty killed, including the chieftain Don Carlos Lucerna, and a number of wounded, among whom was a leader named Don Manuel Ramos. Our troops only had four wounded.

CIENFUEGOS.

A Pardoned Chieftain Reimprisoned.

CIENFUEGOS, May 16, 1869.

The steamer Villa Clara arrived last night, with a section of engineers going to Santiago. Yesterday Don Leandro Junco, well known in this city as one of the chiefs lately pardoned by the amnesty, has been again thrown into prison.

MEXICO.

Settlement of an English Debt—Final Exclusion from the Legislature of all Imperialists—The Tamaulipas Rebellion—The Newly Discovered Gold Mines.

HAVANA, May 19, 1869.

The French steamer Nouveau Monde, from Vera Cruz on the 13th, arrived at this port on the 17th inst. with mails from the Mexican capital to the 10th and telegraphic news to the 13th.

The situation at Querétaro bore a threatening aspect. One the 11th, however, a force of 1,000 troops of all arms left Mexico City for that point to support the Legislature in the lawful proceedings against the Governor of Querétaro, despite the popular demonstrations in his favor.

Troops had also been sent to Yguala, but for what purpose the telegraph fails to explain.

A Cabinet meeting was held recently, when the President ordered the discharge of the English debt on the following basis:—The government will set aside for the payment of said credits the sum of $15,000 monthly, which will be paid to the representative or representatives of the creditors by the General Treasury of the nation in bonds of $500 per diem.

The gold mines discovered near the capital of Colima State are represented to be much richer than those of California and far superior in the firmness of the metal.

The *pronunciados* of Tamaulipas invaded Ciudad Maiz and assassinated three prominent citizens—Don Jesus Ortiz, a brother of his and Don Antonio Portillo. They committed many outrages on families and pillaged several houses. General Escobedo ordered a force of 200 men of all arms to march immediately to the spot, taking the route to Tula. The General soon after went in person.

The project of law lately before Congress excluding as deputies those who had served the empire was definitely approved of.

REVIEW OF THE FOURTH BRIGADE.

The Fourth brigade, N. Y. S. N. G., composed of the Fourth, Eleventh, Twenty-second, Sixty-ninth and Seventy-ninth regiments of infantry, passed in review yesterday before the Mayor in front of the City Hall. The line of March was down Broadway, through the eastern entrance of the Park and then up Broadway. No speeches or demonstrations, either civic or military, took place. The men presented a soldierly appearance, cross-belts were resplendent with fresh pipe clay, accoutrements and and side arms shone with careful burnishing and the company front was unbroken. The promptitude and accuracy displayed in the manual of arms and the uniformity of general action was very commendable and evinced careful drilling.

LITERATURE.

Reviews of New Books.

UNDERGROUND LIFE; OR, MINES AND MINERS. By L. Simonin. Translated, adapted to the present state of British mining and edited by H. W. Bristow, F. R. S. Illustrated with 160 engravings on wood, twenty maps geologically colored, and ten plates of metals and minerals in chromo-lithography. New York: D. Appleton & Co., Grand street, publishers.

This is a great work. M. Simonin, the author, devoted many years to its production, visiting the various mines in Europe and America to personally acquaint himself with their features of public interest or importance. The first part of this book is devoted to coal, coal mining and coal mines, the second part to the metals, and the third and last part to precious stones. Each part is graphic and minute in details and instructive. The author avoids the dry recital of scientific facts by writing in a lively, animated style, in which, although imparting all the facts of science and conveying the most important information, the reader never wearies of the perusal. That the subject is one of great interest to the public will be readily admitted, and that this work will take rank as the best of its class we have no doubt. Not only are all the minerals accurately described, but the miners, their toil and struggles, dangers and privations, success and prosperity, are also made to occupy, as they undoubtedly deserve to, a prominent part in the book. The next feature which deserves especial notice is the engravings, which are all admirably executed. An "Ideal Landscape of the Coal Measure Period" is a splendid conception, and is one of the best wood engravings that we have lately seen. The geologically colored maps show the coal fields of Great Britain, Northern France, Belgium, Bohemia, Westphalia, Canada and of the United States, and the metalliferous regions of Chile, of California and Nevada, of Lake Superior and of Australia. These maps are all drawn and executed in the best style and explain their subjects fully. The chromo-lithographic plates of metals and minerals conclude the illustrations, and are remarkable specimens of art.

We have not seen a new publication for some time past which we can more heartily recommend to the public than this. It is about the only work, and undoubtedly the best, on mines and miners, which can amuse the reader and at the same time convey the amplest instruction. No person, after reading this book, can fail to possess as accurate a knowledge of minerals as is needed by all, excepting, of course, mineralogists. The mechanical execution of the work, as published by Messrs. Appleton & Co., is all that can be desired. It is printed on excellent paper from stereotyped plates imported from England, and its publication is an evidence of enterprise which merits, as we trust it will receive, an ample reward in the shape of a large circulation for the book.

CHEFS D'ŒUVRE OF THE INDUSTRIAL ARTS. By Philippe Burty. Pottery and Porcelain, Glass, Enamel, Metal, Goldsmiths' Work, Jewelry and Tapestry. Illustrated. Edited by W. Chaffers, F. S. A. New York: D. Appleton & Co., Grand street, Publishers.

Many years have not passed since American publishers first ventured to produce great works on the arts and sciences equal in artistic and mechanical excellence to those published in Europe. It was said, and probably with truth at the time, that the number of readers in the United States for such works was too small to warrant their publication in the republic. It is, therefore, a matter of gratification to discover, from the fact that our publishers find it profitable to produce works of great literary value like the one before us, that there is no longer any ground for such complaint. We have become and are still daily becoming more æsthetic in our literary taste. Our students have largely increased in number, and our accomplished and well read men will certainly compare favorably with those of Europe.

We have been led to these reflections by the work before us. "Chefs-d'Œuvre of the Industrial Arts" is a work of rare merit, and should be in the hands of every student. It is divided into four parts, the first of which relates to ceramic art, and includes terra cotta, enamelled faience and porcelain. Everything that pertains to the art is here given. The history of its invention, which has most frequently been attributed to Debutades, a potter at Sicyon, but of which mention is made in the Sanscrit Mahabharata, together with its progress from the most remote period to the present time, is told in a style that cannot fail to interest the reader. Numerous illustrations of the chefs-d'œuvre of Oriental and European pottery embellish and explain the written statements. The second part is devoted to glass, the third to enamels, the fourth to metals, including bronze and iron, jewelry and plate, and the fifth and last part to tapestry and carpets. Every part is full of interest and instruction, and the book throughout is profusely and splendidly illustrated. M. Burty appears to have devoted much time to the study of the industrial arts. We are all aware that the invention of, or discovery how, glass was made by the Phœnicians is very old; Pliny, the great naturalist, who flourished in the first century after Christ, has written a very interesting account of how its manufacture was accidentally discovered. Still it is very interesting to trace the fluctuating progress of an art which is now one of the most beautiful and important in the civilized world. So again with jewelry and plate, the invention of which dates so far back that it has been impossible to discover their origin. And so, also, with tapestry and carpets. The fact that, from all that can be ascertained, Asia was the first civilized portion of the globe, gives strength to the supposition that these arts were invented there. It is certain that they are first heard of on that Continent, and were evidently so old as to be of ordinary mention when first written about. The author of this book leaves nothing unsaid or undone to make his work as complete and exhaustive a history of the industrial arts as could be written. As published by Messrs. Appleton & Co. it is elegant, not only in the printing, but in the illustrations and binding.

NORMAN LESLIE. A New York Story. By Theodore S. Fay. New York: G. P. Putnam & Son.

Some thirty odd years ago this book was first published. Although not a perfect work, it created what we now call a sensation, was well received by the press, and its success was so marked with the public, that when it was dramatized by Miss Louisa Medina and placed on the stage of the Bowery theatre large audiences greeted each representation. Since those days New Yorkers and, indeed, Americans generally, have grown less emotional, so that we scarcely think "Norman Leslie" will meet with as enthusiastic a reception now as it did in the freshness of its infancy. Still, the book, with its impossible characters, tragic events and exciting incidents, has lost nothing of its interest. We have read it again with pleasure, and have no doubt that to a large circle of readers it will be very welcome. To many, in fact, it will be peculiarly welcome, inasmuch as it will revive reminiscences of the long ago, when Black Crook ballets where unknown, when New York, with its 400,000 inhabitants, revelled in the emotional drama and hailed with delight the triumph of Lovely Virtue over the Heavy Villain, instead of rapturously applauding a well-developed bust and a symmetrical leg. Messrs. Putnam & Son have published "Norman Leslie" in admirable style. The book is printed in clear type, on excellent paper, and is bound in green morocco. It is well worth reading.

LAWS OF BUSINESS FOR ALL THE STATES IN THE UNION. With forms and directions for all transactions. By Theophilus Parsons, LL. D. Hartford, Conn.: S. S. Scranton & Co., publishers.

The necessity for such a book as this has long been felt by the mercantile community and by business men in general. The author is the well known Professor of Law in Harvard University and is the author of several valuable works on law. The book before us is thorough and complete, leaving nothing to be desired. It gives in the simplest and clearest possible manner all the facts and forms necessary to enable every person to understand the laws of business. Its contents include a treatise on "business law in general;" then are given the laws on infants or minors, on apprentices, married women, agreement and assent, consideration, bonds, assignments, sales of personal property, stoppage in transitu, guaranty, the statute of fraud, payment and tender, receipts and releases, notes of hand and bills of exchange, drafts and checks, agency, partnership, arbitration, the carriage of goods and passengers, limitations, interest and usury, bankruptcy, marine, fire and life insurance, conveyances, mortgages, leases, the law of patents and copyrights, of the disposal of property by will, of executors, administrators and guardians and the Stamp act. All these are fully explained, and the legal forms required are given. Altogether, this is a valuable book of reference.

SPEECHES ON THE LEGISLATIVE INDEPENDENCE OF IRELAND, with Introductory Notes by Thomas Francis Meagher and Memorial Oration by Richard O'Gorman. New York: P. M. Haverty, publisher, 1869.

The numerous admirers of the late General Meagher will welcome this collection in book form of his speeches on the "legislative independence of Ireland." The history of the deceased patriot is one of which all Irishmen are justly proud, and this memento of his services to his native land will doubtless be cherished alike with all that remains of other Irish patriots who died or suffered exile for the sake of Ireland. As for the speeches themselves, they exhibit great force of argument and logic, and are marked by the fervid eloquence, which is a characteristic of a majority of Irish orators. The book is neatly printed and bound, and contains a rather roughly lithographed likeness of General Meagher.

GLIMPSES OF PLEASANT HOURS. A few tales for youth, by a Member of the Order of Mercy. New York: The Catholic Publication Society.

This is a collection of tales for Catholic youth. All the stories are written in a style of pleasant simplicity, and the vein of piety which runs through them adds to their merit as literary productions. They are, as might be supposed, strongly Catholic in sentiment, but are quite free from any aspersions of or reflections against other creeds. The pious authoress writes in a very interesting manner, and, if we except a certain austerity in her religious reflections, which is probably natural in a Sister of Mercy, would seem to have found materials enough within the walls of a convent for very charming stories.

QUARANTINE.

The Season in Full Blast—Over Four Thousand Dollars a Day Made by Vaccination—A Glorious Harvest for the Health Officer—Vaccinating Tugboats and Pilots—The Quarantine Boatmen.

The quarantine season opened this year with a grander show of profit for the Health Officer than he has ever had before. Emigration, it seems, is immensely on the increase, and has been, in a great measure, transferred from sailing ships to steamers. In olden times, when few emigrants came to this port in other than sailing vessels, the Health Officer charged a vaccination fee of twenty-five cents, as his patients were not alone poor, but the owners of ships in those days were not such wealthy people that they could stand long the heavy extortions of quarantine. Then the passage money was cut down to such a low figure, and the voyages were oftentimes so long that only a small margin of profit was left for expenses in port. The Health Officer, nevertheless, made a snug fortune on his twenty-five cent fee. But now that the charge is a dollar, emigration larger than ever, the steamship corporations wealthy and willing to cash all the Health Officer's bills, the prospect for making money looks boundless in its very extent. Think of a quarter million emigrants at a dollar a head, and then realize how high on the waves of fortune six years' enjoyment of such an income would leave a man. The mines of Golconda could never be relied upon to furnish such a steady and imperial yield. The season has opened brilliantly. On the mild, rippling waters of the harbor in front of the Quarantine station, at the first landing of Staten Island, there lay throughout yesterday four emigrant steamers, two of which were noble specimens of naval architecture, and one emigrant bark. They comprised the Kedar, from Liverpool, with 670 passengers; the City of Antwerp, from Liverpool and Queenstown, with 1,072; the Nebraska, also from Liverpool and Queenstown, with 1,295; the Anton from Bremen, with 730, and the bark Cedar, from Bremen, with 265 passengers—sum total 4,032, making, with the total complement of sailors, about 4,300, which, multiplied by one dollar, makes as heavy a haul as ever a man made in a few hours of medical practice.

On board the Anton, which arrived on Tuesday, were twenty-nine cases of smallpox, with two exceptions, among natives of Sweden. The passengers of the Kedar had two cases in their midst. On board the City of Antwerp were six, on board the Nebraska four and on board the Cedar two. These cases were taken by the Governor Fenton tugboat to the Smallpox Hospital at Blackwell's Island. No deaths had occurred among them, and as the precaution of isolating them from the rest of the passengers had been adopted by the surgeons of the ships the disease did not extend itself in any alarming measure. Of course everybody on board each vessel was vaccinated at a dollar a head, including the crew, from the captain to the cook, and the bills were duly forwarded for payment on the very heels of the performance. Five dollars a head for carrying each afflicted emigrant to the hospital at Blackwell's Island, and anything you please above twenty-five dollars for fumigation, as the charges are most capricious and depend altogether upon how much the captain or owner can be calculated on to pay, makes a more profitable day's work than any business in the country can show.

But then, the income of Quarantine does not end exactly at this point. Here, for instance, may be a ship lying at anchor for five days that would save the owners as many thousand dollars if she were at her pier in the city. All the sick passengers have been removed, the rest vaccinated, the hold fumigated, and yet, four, five, six or ten days after she may have to lie in the waters of the upper or lower bay, with her swarming load of passengers sweltering on the deck through the livelong day to see if smallpox or fever can be developed among them. There is no earthly motive for these detentions save the one consideration of making them contribute to the revenue of Quarantine. It is alleged that in many instances the captain or owner by making terms with the proper official has been allowed to pull up his anchor and start after a seasonable delay for the city. The boatmen of Quarantine are a favored race of men if their perquisites are their own. They drove a brisk business yesterday taking people who had friends on board out to the various vessels at anchor. Every ferryboat from New York to the first landing at Staten Island brought down Irish and German men and women anxious to see or to learn something about their friends or relations just arrived. The doctor's boatmen were on hand to accommodate at a dollar a head anybody destrous of going out.

Some of the natives from the Emerald Isle muttered curses loud and deep against the institution of quarantine. "What the divil are they doin', keeping people out there that haven't a sign of sickness about 'em?" indignantly inquired one. "Oh, it's just a thrick to make money," replied another; "Swinburne, with his d—d vaccination, pizons half the people comin' to the counthry. A dollar ahead I'm towld is what he charges, an' begor it's done for nothin' in the ould dart. I'll go bail it's the dollar a head Swinburne looks for, and not to save us from the smallpox." The whole institution of quarantine underwent a pretty vigorous and not over polite criticism at the hands of the Hibernian.

Most of those who came down went over with "the doctor's boatmen"—who ought, upon the principle pursued by their medical master, to be vaccinated a dozen times a day and washed all over with a disinfecting mop just as often. They take their passengers as far as the ship's side, go on board themselves, come back with the required information for their expectant freight, and then, mingling with their passengers and mingling with the people on Staten Island afterwards, they can just as effectually disseminate disease as if all the sick passengers were shoved ashore and accommodated in the village boarding houses. This shows the mockery of quarantine regulations. If a ship is to be kept away from her moorings at the city, and her passengers prevented from landing, on the score that the seeds of disease may be developed and disseminated among the people on shore; if such a course is not followed, then it certainly holds good as an argument that the quarantine boatmen should themselves be quarantined and not allowed to run around among the natives of Staten Island after coming direct from handling cases of smallpox on board the tugboat Fenton. Yet this is the fact, and an alarming fact also. These people who went down to see their friends yesterday were not permitted on board, but the boatmen went freely among the seething mass of emigrants, and if any disease was in their midst few were more likely to bring it away than these enterprising subordinates of Dr. Swinburne. He pays them such small wages and starves them so much in the perquisite line that the poor fellows wear a dreadfully weak, scared and emaciated appearance, and are certainly the fittest looking sort or subjects to bring away an epidemic from on board a vessel and carry it a long way on shore. The doctor himself may be proof against a raging and combined alliance of cholera, fever and smallpox; but then he lives well, and the finest wines in the world contribute to fortify his valuable health; but he ought to throw a bottle of that vinous nourishment which comes to him at so cheap a rate once in a while to these famished and underpaid boatmen of his.

Within a few days past a new idea has entered the doctor's mind. Heretofore he contented himself with vaccinating the passengers and crew of a vessel, but now he goes in for operating on the crew and captain of any tugboat that may be found towing a ship to Quarantine, or the crew and captain of any pilot boat that may chance to come up with any craft having a similar destination. This, of course, at their expense. He caught hold of the tug Rescue towing the Cedar up from the lower bay on Tuesday and gave the lads a regular vaccine dose. The pilot fell in for the same favor. He next intends to hunt up those slippery customers the yacht reporters of the HERALD; but then he will be compelled to get up so early in the morning, and employ half a dozen yachts as fast as the Flying Dutchman, that he may reconsider and declare that the thing wouldn't pay after all.

COAST DEFENCES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

It is admitted that Long Island is our weak point of defence. A foreign Power once in possession of the eastern part of that, and we would be at the mercy of constant incursions. It is assumed that a foreign fleet could place itself in Huntington bay, Long Island Sound, and when once there would be invulnerable. This bay is the finest of its size in any country, having great depth of water, and, for practical purposes, is as large as the upper bay of New York. Out of it opens Lloyd's harbor, Northport harbor, Southport harbor, Duck Island harbor and Huntington harbor, on which latter is situated the most considerable village of Long Island. Possession of this bay gives practical control of the Long Island railroads, and would enable an army to march in two days' time upon Brooklyn. How can this weak point be protected or avoided? There is a point of rocks extending from West Neck half a mile into the bay, separating Lloyd's harbor from Huntington inlet, on which a water battery could easily be constructed, which would effectually protect the entrances to each of these bays and harbors. This would form the nucleus of defence, and earthworks could at any time be constructed under the protection of these works. Nature has given the hint. It only remains for man to take it, and, by spending a few thousand dollars, save to the nation millions upon millions. Disregard the warning, and a few years may witness the beautiful villages of Huntington, Northport and Oyster Bay turned into barracks for a hostile foe or turned to ashes. To be prepared for it is to avoid foreign war.

BROOKLYN CITY.

THE COURTS.

UNITED STATES CIRCUIT COURT.

Important Decision—A Government Official Can Recover as an Informer—Judge Blatchford's Decision Disregarded.

Before Judge Benedict.

The United States vs. Frederick Chassell.—The following decision was promulgated yesterday. It will be found to be directly the reverse of the recent decision of Judge Blatchford, of the Southern district upon the same question:—

The cause comes before the court upon a motion for the distribution of a fund in the registry, arising from a fine imposed upon the defendant, Frederick Chassell. The proceeding against Chassell was a criminal proceeding upon an indictment found against him for carrying on the business of a retail liquor dealer, without having paid the special tax as required by law, upon which indictment he was tried and convicted and a fine imposed by the court, which was paid, constituting the fund in question. One-half of this fund is now claimed by Brewster Wood, as informer. In support of his claim Wood has produced a certificate of the District Attorney to the effect that he is the person who first informed of the cause, matters, and things whereby the arrest and conviction of the defendant in the above entitled cause was procured; to which he has added his own oath, showing that he first informed the District Attorney of the facts upon which the penalties were based, and also that he has no knowledge or information that any other claim was made by any other person to have first informed of such matters and things. On the part of the government there is produced the written admission of Wood that he obtained the information which he imparted to the District Attorney while in the discharge of his official duty as assistant assessor of the Third Collection district of this State. Upon this state of facts a single question has been raised whether the circumstance that Wood obtained the information on the communication of which he bases his claim as informer while in the discharge of his official duty as assistant assessor, debars him from claiming a share in the fine as informer. My opinion is that it does not, and for the following reasons:—It was long since held that an inspector of the customs might become entitled to receive an informer's share by reason of information given by him to the collector of customs; and was not debarred from that right by the fact that he was employed by the government in the enforcement of the revenue laws under a salary. (Hooper vs. fifty one casks of brandy, Davis' R., 370.) This decision was acquiesced in and has since controlled the distribution of forfeitures under the customs laws. If the early provisions of the internal revenue laws be examined they show clearly an intention on the part of the Legislature to continue this feature of the customs laws in the laws relating to the internal revenue. Thus the act of July 1, 1862, in the thirty-first section, makes it the duty of a collector of internal revenue to prosecute for the recovery of any sums forfeited by the act, and declares that all fines, penalties and forfeitures shall be sued for in the name of the United States or of the collector, and that one moiety of the recovery should be to the use of the person who, if a collector or deputy collector, shall first inform of the cause, matter or thing whereby such fine, penalty or forfeiture was incurred. This provision was re-enacted in the act of 1863, and substantially the same provision appears in 170th section of the act of June 30, 1864. By the act of March 3, 1865, section 179 of the act of 1864 is amended by striking out the words, "if a collector or deputy collector;" and the notes to edition of this act, which was then published and which was distributed, declares that thereafter a moiety of all fines, penalties and forfeitures is to be paid to the informer, "whether officer of the revenue or private citizen." These enactments indicate an unmistakable intention to permit officers of the revenue to participate as informers in the distribution of fines, penalties and forfeitures. The various subsequent acts disclose no change of intention, but have always left this right open to be claimed by any person, and they have been passed with full knowledge that revenue officers were constantly being paid large rewards as informers, and in the face of treasury regulations which clearly recognize their right to claim such rewards. There is no reasonable doubt therefore that the Legislature intended by the present act—what seems to be said by the act—namely, that any person, whatsoever, may share in a fine, penalty or forfeiture, provided it be made to appear that such person first informed of the cause, matter or thing whereby such fine, penalty or forfeiture shall have been incurred. The intention to include officers of the revenue in the general words used by the act and enable them to participate in the distribution of fines, penalties and forfeitures is reasonable. For this mode of stimulating the zeal of officials, by the hope of additional compensation, is a common practice in revenue laws, and the small fixed compensation which is attached to many offices tends to confirm the supposition that it was supposed that such compensation could be increased by rewards of diligence. As there exists in the act no words of limitation as to the persons who may become informers, so also there is no limitation in regard to the method by which the information shall have been acquired. Any person may become entitled to share as an informer by reason of any information which contributes in a substantial way to recover the fine, penalty of forfeiture which is finally imposed, provided such information has not only been acquired, but also properly imparted. To whom imparted the act does not say, but its fair import is that the information must be imparted to some one authorized to, and who does thereupon take official action to recover the fine or penalty, or to enforce the forfeiture, which the information discloses to have been incurred, and the information must be imparted with the intention of having it so acted upon. It must also be the first information so imparted. These restrictions can be fairly gathered from the words of the act, and I am unable to see that any other limitations can be reasonably inferred from anything in the act contained. According to this construction of the law it clearly appears that the present petitioner is entitled to a distributive share in the fine in question, for it appears that of his own motion and by his own diligence he acquired information which, being acted on by the proper officer, led to the conviction of the offender. This information he imparted to the District Attorney, who, and who alone was authorized to institute the proceedings which resulted in the imposition of the fine, and he so imparted his information, with the intent that such proceeding should be instituted upon his information, and his was the first information so imparted. These facts, unattended with any counterbalancing circumstances, according to my view of the law, entitle him to be adjudged to be the legal informer, entitled to a distributive share of the fund in court. In thus disposing of the case I have not omitted to notice two recent cases, arising under this same provision of law.—(The United States vs. 100 barrels distilled spirits, 8 Int. R. Rec., p. 20; United States vs. four cutting machines, 9 Int. R. Rec., p. 145.) But I find nothing in the actual adjudications of those cases upon the facts of these cases as I understand them, which leads me to a different conclusion than that to which I have arrived in this case.

BROOKLYN INTELLIGENCE.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT.—Martin Marooney, a workman at the chemical works on Ninth street, was severely burned yesterday morning by falling into a vat of burning sulphur. He was taken to the City Hospital.

THAT STEPMOTHER.—Ann Ganley, a woman about thirty-eight years of age, was examined on a charge of feloniously assaulting Edward Ganley, her stepson, a boy of fourteen years, and striking him on the head with an axe. The assault, which was committed two weeks ago, resulted in much injury to the boy, and at one time he was partly deranged in consequence of the injuries. She was committed in full to await the action of the Grand Jury.

THE ATLANTIC BANK DEFALCATION.—A card has been published by the directors of this bank in relation to the recent defalcation, in which "they regret to announce the discovery of certain irregularities involving some loss to the stockholders, and they take this means of stating that the bank is perfectly solvent, and has the full confidence of the department at Washington, Mr. Collender, now being engaged in the examination and adjustment of the affairs, is continuing the affairs of the bank as usual."

THE PAID FIRE DEPARTMENT.—Commissioners Massey, Brown, McLaughlin and Campbell visited the engine and hose houses of the Eastern District and made a thorough examination of the buildings and apparatus of the department. As a general thing, affairs appeared more favorable