NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

THEATRE COMIQUE, 514 Broadway.—COMIC VOCALISM, NEGRO ACTS, &C.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and 13th street.—MEN AND ACRES.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway.—NEW VERSION OF MACBETH.

FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, Twenty-fourth st.—FROU-FROU.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, corner of Eighth avenue and 23d st.—THE TWELVE TEMPTATIONS.

WOOD'S MUSEUM AND MENAGERIE, Broadway, corner Fourteenth st.—Matinee daily. Performance every evening.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—PIPPIN; OR, THE KING OF THE GOLD MINES.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—NEW YORK IN 1840 AND 1870—LE QUATRE AMOUR—PRIDE OF THE OCEAN.

THE TAMMANY, Fourteenth street.—GRAND VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT.

BOOTH'S THEATRE, 23d st., between 5th and 6th avs.—A WIDOW HUNT—TOODLES.

UNION LEAGUE CLUB THEATRE, Madison av. and 26th st. Matinee at 2. L'ELIXIR D'AMORE.

MRS. F. B. CONWAY'S PARK THEATRE, Brooklyn.—HUNTED DOWN.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 201 Bowery.—COMIC VOCALISM, NEGRO MINSTRELSY, &C.

BRYANT'S OPERA HOUSE, Tammany Building, 14th st.—BRYANT'S MINSTRELS.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 585 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN MINSTRELSY, &C.

KELLY & LEON'S MINSTRELS, 720 Broadway.—CHING-CHON-HI.

APOLLO HALL, corner 28th street and Broadway.—THE NEW HIBERNICON.

HOOLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—HOOLEY'S MINSTRELS—SUPERNATURAL ILLUSIONS—HAMLET.

HIPPOTHEATRON, Fourteenth street—PROFESSOR RISLEY'S COMBINATION.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Thursday, April 21, 1870.

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A NEW TROUBLE IN PARIS—The workingmen's strikes. Fifteen thousand foundrymen and moulders there are reported as having struck, and that large bodies of other operatives are to follow. Truly, the Emperor in these ominous times does not rest upon a bed of roses, and the Pope's dogma is still to come.

NOT QUITE EXTINGUISHED YET—The insurrection in Cuba. In fact, our latest news from that quarter would seem to indicate that the Cubans are still in the field and giving the Spaniards very active employment. Meantime we wonder what is in the wind at Washington, when even in Congress we hear nothing more of Cuba.

SPEAKER HITCHMAN introduced a bill in the Assembly yesterday providing for an assessment of property south of Fourteenth street one-half of its value for up town improvements. The bill was so evidently outrageous and unjust that it was buried in the Committee on Cities immediately, nobody voting to pass it except the Speaker himself.

THE HELL GATE APPROPRIATION.—It is a subject for public congratulation that the mistaken Congressional economy has yielded its point in regard to the sum necessary for the operations at Hell Gate. Instead of one hundred thousand dollars we are to have two hundred and fifty thousand. With the first named sum nothing could have been done of practical value, and the season would have been wasted; but with the sum finally determined upon the work may make, we believe, some satisfactory progress.

RAILROADS IN FAVOR AT ALBANY.—Notwithstanding the expressed aversion to giving State aid to the railroads we notice that no less than seven bills "to facilitate the construction" of that number of railroads have just passed the Senate by respectable majorities. These favored roads are the Midland and Oswego, the Adirondack, the Plattsburg and Whitehall—an old stager in the Legislature—the Buffalo and Washington, the Cattaraugus road, the Watertown and Sackett's Harbor, and the Southern Central. Senators must have been convinced that the construction of these roads was a good thing for the interests of the State, or they would not have passed the bills. At all events, it was a good day's work for the railroads.

The Darien Ship Canal Project—British Interference.

England can no more change her jealous and selfish character where the progress and great national interests of the United States are concerned than the leopard his spots or the Ethiopian his skin. Indeed she is and has always been very jealous of commercial rivals, though more particularly so of this country. History abounds with facts to show this. The latest example of her jealousy and selfishness, according to our Washington news, is in the case of the Darien ship canal project. The first despatch from Washington to the New York press intimated that the British Minister, Mr. Thornton, would remonstrate with our government against the exclusive privileges granted to the United States by New Granada and the independent action of this country in the matter of a ship canal across the Isthmus of Darien. The despatch which we publish this morning from Washington give a milder phase to the question of British interference, but it seems probable that Great Britain is about to interpose in some way. In a despatch published yesterday this interposition is put in a mild diplomatic style. The words are:—"It is, nevertheless, probable that some discussion will occur between the United States and Great Britain as to the right of the former to make a treaty for exclusive privileges with any of the Central American Powers."

It is intimated that Great Britain may claim that, under the Clayton-Bulwer convention of the 19th of April, 1850, all projects for the construction of a ship canal across the isthmus which connects North and South America should be under the control of both Powers. That convention, it will be remembered, was made with special reference to the Nicaragua route, and provided that neither of the Powers should exercise exclusive control over any canal that might be made there, and that neither should colonize, fortify, or exercise any exclusive dominion over Nicaragua, Costa Rica, the Mosquito coast, or any part of Central America. It is said that the eighth article of this convention is the one upon which Great Britain relies particularly for establishing her claim to an equal control over and participation in any canal or railway across the isthmus connecting South and North America. That article says the two governments, "to accomplish a particular object and to establish a general principle, agree to extend their protection by treaty stipulations to any other practicable communications than the Nicaragua route, whether by canal or railway, across the isthmus which connects North and South America, and especially to the interoceanic communications, should the same prove to be practicable, which are now proposed to be established by the way of Tehuantepec or Panama." Excluding the circumlocution of diplomatic language and details in the rest of the eighth article and the convention generally, this is the gist and substance of the matter.

It is a question whether Darien, which politically belongs to New Granada and to South America, comes within the meaning of the convention, which only covers Central America. This might be a question for a great deal of diplomatic palaver. Nor do we care to enter into it here. If the convention can be construed to give England an equal control over the work and management of a Darien canal with the United States, or to place her on the same political or international footing with this country in American affairs, the sooner that convention is abrogated the better. The making of it was a stupid piece of business on our part, and shows how far superior British statesmen and diplomats were to our own. It recognized a principle which we should never have acknowledged. It put Great Britain, which is an European Power, and which has but limited interests, comparatively, in this hemisphere, on a footing with the American republic, which has peculiar and far greater interests, both political and commercial, in all the countries of America. More than that, the opening of a ship canal through Central America is necessary to connect the commerce of one portion of the United States—the Pacific States—with the other portion on the Atlantic side. There was not and is not any equality in the conditions or interests of the two nations connected with a ship canal across any part of Central America. The United States, in accordance with the broad and liberal policy it always pursues in international matters, will, of course, offer every facility to England and all other nations should it make a ship canal across the isthmus; but we should never admit that any of the European Powers are on an equality with this country in questions pertaining to America. The Clayton-Bulwer treaty was a blunder, therefore, and the time has come when this great republic should shake off its swaddling clothes and assert the policy of America for the Americans. If Great Britain demurs to this, or attempts to interfere in the great work we have commenced to survey and have made a treaty with New Granada for the cutting of a ship canal across the Isthmus of Darien—the government should at once give notice to abrogate the Clayton-Bulwer convention, or any other that may stand in the way of this work or of our control over American affairs.

It is hard, we know, for England to give up her assumption and that patronizing affected superiority with which she has been accustomed to treat the United States. It took her a long time to learn that this country was an independent nation, equal in rights and privileges to herself. She has always been disposed to treat the United States as a parent does his offspring. Many years after our independence we had to go to war with her to assert our equality. Even yet she is jealous of our growth, power and influence. She never loses an opportunity to checkmate us. Under the pretence of friendship, and with a patronizing air, she exhibits her jealousy and selfishness whenever a question concerning the progress or power of this republic comes up. This has been seen in our late war, in the Mexican question, in the Cuban and St. Domingo questions, and at other times. Though she does not talk or act as boldly as in former times she pursues the same inimical policy in a tortuous and insidious manner. Heretofore we have been weak in our foreign and American policy, which has made England and other European Powers presumptuous. The only really bold course our government has taken with any of these Powers of late years was with regard to the Mexican invasion, and then it was forced to take the course it did by the thunders of the press and the power of public opinion. This mighty republic is now a giant among nations. It should lay down and follow a policy of its own with regard to all matters pertaining to America. Let European nations confine themselves to their own continent. We do not want to, and will not, interfere with them. But here we must be the dominating Power, and we ought to let the world know the fact.

The European War Cloud in the Northeast.

By our latest advices per mail from Europe we learn that Russia is concentrating an army of one hundred and twenty thousand men on the southern confines of Poland, and at the same moment Prussia is pushing with hot haste the work on her grand fortified harbor of Wilhelmshafen—the Cherbourg and Cronstadt, in one, of the North Germanic Confederation. Against whom or under what menace are these preparations directed? There is some difficulty still between the Prussian and the Danish governments in reference to the everlasting subject of the Schleswig-Holstein treaties, and it has even been rumored that Copenhagen might be bombarded by the German navy, but that would not directly require a concentration of Russian forces toward the Southwest. The Czar is reported to be eying the crisis in Austria and the movements of Turkey with eager gaze; but that would hardly account for hasty and heavy Prussian fortification on the north. What, then, does this sudden and simultaneous action of the two great conterminous Northern Powers portend? They are closely allied, and their rulers are nearly related by marriage. The Czar has long been displeased with Austria, and Prussia has a bone to pick with France. Bismarck means German unity South as well as North. Napoleon dare not let a Teutonic Colossus grow up to overshadow him beyond the Rhine. Then Bismarck is ill, and his attacks have always portended mischief in the field of diplomacy. He is as bold as he is able, and he well knows how "where the lion's skin falls short to eke it out with the fox's." Are we to have a grand move to absorb Baden and Würtemberg along with Bavaria, as hinted in our article of a few days since? And are Russia and Prussia to stand together against France and Austria? The drift of the political current sets that way, and diplomatic notes and semi-official journalistic articles are flitting to and fro like Mother Carey's chickens seen before a storm. The cloud in the Northeast is thus far no bigger than a man's hand; but that hand, in its broad grasp and nervous digits, looks woadrously like the huge paw of Count Bismarck.

A Stormy Spring.

Not for many years in this country have we had such a cold and stormy month of March, followed by such a tempestuous April, as we have had and are suffering this season. From the Upper Mississippi and its tributaries, from the Ohio and its feeders, from the Mohawk and the Upper Hudson, from all the New England States, we have had or are getting reports of destructive storms, freshets and inundations. We have had similar reports from the British islands, and at Lisbon they have just experienced the sensation of something like a West Indian tornado. But all these March and April storms north of the equator dwindle into small affairs compared with the terrific hurricane of the 9th of March at Buenos Ayres (an autumnal equinoctial on that side of the line), some general details of which we publish this morning. The sea, by the force of the wind, was driven into the city, and so heavily and rapidly that men and horses were drowned in the streets, numerous buildings were undermined by the waves, and then crushed to their foundations with the weight of the goods stored in them; ships were driven on shore and wrecked, or sunk at their anchorage, and many sailors were drowned. The loss of life and property by this fearful visitation must have been very heavy; and we apprehend that some of our New York merchants and skippers may be among the sufferers, though as yet we have no report to this effect.

After our prolonged season in these latitudes—from the middle of December to the middle of February—of soft and balmy weather we were apprehensive that we should have to pay for it in the spring. Sure enough, too, March came in like a lion and went out like a grizzly bear, and April, which poets have sanctified as the month of "sunny smiles and tears," has been this time as fierce in its northeasterly storms as the breaking up of a cruel winter at Newfoundland. We hope that the worst is over, and that we shall soon be favored with days and weeks of balmier winds and softer and brighter skies, and with a general and prolonged season of strawberries and cream.

A GOOD BILL, WHICH SHOULD BE PROMPTLY PASSED.—The Jury bill for the city of New York introduced in the Assembly by Mr. Fields. It provides a number of reforms and remedies greatly needed in reference to our juries and jury duty. Make it a law and it will relieve courts and lawyers of much trouble and our city treasury of heavy expenses now necessarily incurred in getting juries. It makes plain and consistent with the rules of fair play this whole business, and provides for proper requirements, exemptions and limitations of jury duty. Above all, it provides for paying the citizen a fair compensation for leaving his business to serve the public as a juryman; and this consideration alone ought to be a sufficient reason with every man in the Legislature to support the bill. It appears to us so good a bill in this and in all other respects that we cannot understand why there should be any hesitation in passing it. The people of this city desire it, and their representatives at Albany will be held responsible if they fail to push it through. It is a measure of the highest importance in view of the administration of justice in this city, and it ought to be passed at once.

THE WELLAND CANAL is open, which opens the passage from Lake Erie down to Montreal, and from Lake Ontario westward to Lake Superior.

Congress—The Sypher Election Case in the House.

The Senate commenced retrieving the time and opportunity lost on the dull Georgia bill yesterday by attending soberly and considerately to business. The members had more interesting topics to discuss, such as the Northern Pacific Railroad bill, and naturally worked better at it, even coming to an agreement to vote to-day on the bill referred to.

In the House the fun was uproarious. The Ohio Legislature was present, rambling up and down the aisles of the hall, and the considerate Congressmen improvised a first class sensation for the entertainment of their guests. Sypher and his election case came up, and the vote in favor of his retaining his seat against St. Martin—who beat him by a majority of about twelve thousand in the Louisiana election—was carried by a majority of five. Of course it was natural to suppose that a good radical majority of five was more effectual than a good democratic majority of twelve thousand, and Sypher walked up to the Speaker's desk to be sworn in as confidently as if half a dozen ciphers had been affixed to his slim majority. But he was stopped as by a thunderbolt. Even as his hand was raised to heaven to take the oath the bounding Brooks was on his feet objecting to his admission, on the ground that he was a citizen of Pennsylvania, and not of Louisiana, and that he had made a corrupt bargain with the Pennsylvania iron men to vote in their interests if they would vote to put him in. Added to this came a written protest from the democratic members, and finally, as the accumulation of all his woes, the administration of the oath was delayed forever by a motion of Mr. Moore, a republican, to reconsider the vote admitting him. That motion was carried. A substitute was immediately offered and passed declaring that there had been no election in Sypher's district, and that neither he nor his contestant, Mr. St. Martin, was entitled to a seat. Thereupon Sypher left, carrying with him the proud consciousness of having come nearer being a member of the House on the slimmest majority, without actually succeeding, than any individual on record.

The Suez Passage—From Bombay Direct to Liverpool.

Some days since we mentioned the arrival of the cotton steamer Danube at Liverpool from Bombay via the Suez Canal. We have now to record the arrival of the steamship Stirling, from and to the same ports, in forty-three days, in spite of a clogged keel and terrible adverse gales in the Bay of Biscay. This passage, which is the only complete test yet made of the practical value of the Suez Canal, in all weathers, to British trade, should, we think, silence the cavillings of John Bull against the success of his French neighbor's splendid enterprise. The time consumed by the Stirling in passing from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean through the canal was but fourteen hours, while the whole lapse of the voyage was but little more than one-third of the duration of the circuit heretofore required around the Cape of Good Hope. When we now reflect upon the fleets of tea ships and vessels laden with the spices and tissues "of Ormus and of Ind" which annually pass between the ports of China, Japan, Australia and the Eastern archipelagoes and the maritime cities of Britain, Belgium, France and Holland, we may begin to form an adequate appreciation of the wonderful "sea change" that commerce between Europe and Asia is about to undergo. Literally, by these grand enterprises, the nations of the earth are swiftly coming into closer bonds of union. What a stride from the banks of the Ganges and the Euphrates to the docks of the Mersey and the Thames; from the pagodas of Hindostan to the hotels of the West End; from the dialects of ancient Sanscrit derivation to the slang of Wapping, in less than fifty days! The world does move.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE EXHIBITION.—The bill incorporating the Industrial Exhibition Company, which has organized in this city to erect a permanent Crystal Palace, passed the Assembly yesterday, and, having already passed the Senate, only requires the Governor's signature to become a law. The project is one of great magnitude, and as the capital—seven millions—is said to be already paid up, promises to be brought rapidly to completion. We understand that the building is to be a permanent one, and after the exhibition is over will be devoted to the uses of a conservatory, botanical and zoological gardens, and to the general education of the masses in the beautiful and strange in nature.

WEARING OUT THE JUDGE.—We are not surprised to hear that Recorder Hackett was compelled to adjourn the McFarland trial yesterday through indisposition. This trial has lasted already very long, and has been continued with unusual regularity from day to day, and the mental strain on the presiding judge in such a case, kept up constantly from day to day, would wear out any mortal creature. We trust the indisposition of the Judge may be merely a passing warning of the necessity for lighter labor.

THE SUPREME COURT LEGAL TENDER DECISION.—It will be seen from our reports of the proceedings in the Supreme Court yesterday that the appeals on the legal tender question, upon which a new decision was expected, were withdrawn from the court by the parties concerned, and that the rehearing on the original case asked for by Attorney General Hoar could not, under a rule of the court, be granted. The result is that the legal tender decision lately delivered by the Chief Justice remains in force. We think it quite probable, however, that some new appeal before long will be brought before the court upon which a new decision cannot be evaded.

A DUBIOUS LIBEL.—In the HERALD of March 24 appeared a cable telegram from London saying "the affairs of Brown & Bowden, of Cardiff, will be arranged probably without bankruptcy." This evidently contradicted some rumor then afloat in London that the firm named was on the verge of bankruptcy, and was calculated to better their credit. But the firm of David Brown & Bowden, of London, writes to inform us that it will "hold us responsible for any and all damages," &c. These gentlemen have the goodness to say in the same letter that they are not "of Cardiff." As they are not the firm described perhaps they are not libelled.

Proposed Adjournment of the Legislature.

It appears that there is a very earnest desire prevailing among the sages at Albany to adjourn *sine die* on next Tuesday night. If such be decided upon no one will be sorry that the law-making business of this year is nearly over. As far as this city is concerned we have had all we want from the Albany firm, and they may dissolve partnership and shut up shop as soon as possible. We have got an excellent form of city government, under which, with proper administration, we may hope to live in the same equitable, peaceful, prosperous condition as other metropolitan cities throughout the globe. Under responsible authority we look for the best men in office in all the departments, new and remodelled; men of note and character on the bench; men of education and integrity in all the different commissions. We are promised this much-longed-for consummation by the leaders of the city democracy, and we have no reason to doubt that the promises will be fulfilled by the chiefs of that party, who have shown so much skill in quelling a foolish revolt in their own ranks, and thus saving the city from the probabilities of a disastrous rowdy rule. The tax levies for the provision of the local government have been disposed of in one house, and will meet with little obstruction in the other. There is nothing to prevent these two bills from being disposed of at once and sent to the Governor. The Supply bill—a somewhat intricate document, but not out of the usual form—will be reported in the Assembly to-day by Mr. Jacobs, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. It is not a very heavy bill, and is said to contain few, if any, items open to objection. It ought to pass the House to-day and be disposed of in the Senate to-morrow if no factious opposition is offered.

This will clear the track of our prominent local legislation, and, with the exception of a few other bills perfecting the Charter, and the various city railroad bills, underground and overground and half way, some of which will not see light this session and some of which will be consigned to eternal darkness, will leave little other work to be done which should prolong the sittings of the august body which illuminates, by its Minerva-like wisdom, the shabby State Capitol in Albany. The country members have had a fair swing for the last few days. Their little local bills have been rushing through at the rate of about sixty a day in the Assembly and forty in the Senate. Some of them, of course, have gone up in a balloon, and some have gone up to the Governor, to sink or swim, as his Excellency's judgment may decree. So the bucolic element has no reason to grumble at an early adjournment. The bills not acted upon can lie in lavender until next session, when they can have another airing.

There is an urgent reason why the Legislature should "thaw and resolve itself into a dew." Early next week the politicians of both parties must have time to prepare themselves for the conventions to be held in Rochester—the democratic on Wednesday, the 27th, and the republican on Thursday, the 28th—for the nomination of Judges of the Supreme Court under the accepted judiciary article of the rejected constitution. There is much wirepulling and general fixing up of things to be done, which will require members to be at their homes a few days in advance of the conventions. The best portion of this year's legislation being now accomplished, let us "throw away the worser half" until the year of our Lord 1871.

Bonapartist Revolutionism.

Premier Ollivier debated the *Senatus Consultum* of France with the revolutionary element in the French Legislature yesterday. In the course of his speech the chief of the Cabinet asserted the integrity of the "hereditary empire," and added that "if the revolutionary party wished to combat the government the government would accept the challenge and outstrip its enemies on revolutionary grounds." Such words indicate, it may be, a tendency on the part of Napoleon to return to first principles if urged and pressed on. Born in a revolution, the dynasty may perhaps seek to "crown the edifice" by and after a revolution. It would be a bold, dangerous experiment, but perhaps not impossible after the *coup d'etat* and in the present condition of the democracies of Europe. With a Bonaparte at the head of the peoples of the Continent the "reds" and the thrones by "divine right" would be equally in danger.

THE LAST APPEAL.—A suggestive idea upon the wisdom and power of the State Executive was contained in the reason given by Senator Norton for voting in favor of State aid to the railroads. He said that he voted "aye" because he wanted to get the bills to the hands of Governor Hoffman, where they would certainly be killed by a veto, if the Senate did not chose to stop them. This affirmative vote might be regarded, after all, as the most negative vote cast. It was honest and emphatic, at least. Hoffman is the sheet anchor to hold on by when there is a break in prospect, and it is well to have a sheet anchor sometimes. If he vetoes the railroad bills Senators will at least be put on record before their constituencies.

THE LATEST SILLY CANARD ABOUT THE MISSING STEAMER.—The piece of paper found in a bottle pretending to give an account of the burning of the City of Boston is a fiction. It is founded upon the report that there was some danger of fire; but its date is too late for its statements to be reasonable. If the City of Boston perished by fire that accident doubtless occurred somewhere within the limit of time for an ordinary passage, and not in thirty-five days from her departure. It is a pity that it is not possible to punish the makers of such hoaxes.

THE NEXT BEST THING.—Perry, the murderer of the watchman Hayes, was yesterday sentenced to State Prison for life. In passing sentence the Judge expressed his personal conviction that the prisoner was guilty of murder in the first degree, for which the punishment would have been hanging. Every intelligent person doubtless coincides with the view of the Judge. Society, perhaps, would be as well satisfied to have the criminal buried in his prison cell as in a grave—if there were any certainty that he would not be pardoned out in a day or two.

THE CUSTOM HOUSE RING IN GRIEF.

In the Nutmeg Business—Weeping and Gnashing of Teeth—A Heavy Array of Officials and Ex Officials as Witnesses—McCroum Held for the Grand Jury.

On the 9th inst. the HERALD devoted a column of its pages to the matter of "Custom House manoeuvering" and how the travelling public and the government were victimized at the same time through a formidable "ring" of male and female sharpers in the Custom House. Much more might have been given at that time to guard the public, or rather prepare them for what they might expect on their return from a transatlantic trip during the summer and the indignities they may suffer if they evade the revenue laws by introducing trifling articles of wearing apparel, jewelry, &c., without declaring in writing the character and cost of such and paying the duty thereon. Ladies are not probably aware, perhaps, that in Europe fastenings for infants' diapers are embellished with diamonds and this costly article is eagerly sought for by the female searchers. Sometimes a less glittering bauble is found, and the nurse leaves in disgust, wondering if such indignities are known to their superiors. As an illustration of this fact, a case in point is here set forth:—

In the summer of 1868 there was appointed to the office of Inspector of Customs of New York a man named Charles L. Lazarus; doubts arising as to the eligibility of Israelites holding government offices, it was deemed advisable to adopt the more Gentile name of Lawrence, and according to this ruling the name of Charles L. Lawrence was assumed and in due form of law that alias was entered on the books of the Custom House, and each month he drew salary from the Auditor's bureau, sometimes with the trifling deduction of twenty per cent if sought for before it became due.

Almost from the day of his appointment a brisk trade sprang up among a certain class of Jews who make a profession of defrauding the government of the revenues due on importations of silks, laces, velvet ribbons and other costly fabrics. In order to carry out this nefarious scheme it became necessary to inaugurate a "ring" in the Surveyor's department; and this programme was carried out in its broadest sense, Lawrence acting as "head centre" pro tem.

Matters progressed in this manner for a time, and so barefaced were the cases presented that when a seizure was accidentally made of a case of merchandise it was taken for examination to the Deputy Surveyors' room, and, if found to contain gloves, hosiery or other goods, the members of the ring took off their boots and fitted to suit them and the color of kids according to taste. These facts were laid before the Collector and Surveyor. One member of the ring, getting wind of the affair, which embodied them, resigned; Lawrence was removed, but one of the aldermen referred to—perhaps both—worked upon the sympathies of Mr. Grinnell, and Lawrence was reinstated. The scene now changes, and the ramifications of the "ring" extend to the Canadian frontier, where, with unblushing effrontery, two of the ring (McCrum and Lawrence) purchase nutmegs, velvet ribbons, &c., &c; employed and bar aimed with buggagemen, drakesmen and others to aid them in their frauds. This coming to the ear of General N. M. Curtis, Special Treasury Agent for the Northern district, he set about and captured the pair, *flagrante delicto*, and their case came up for examination before Commissioner Osborn, in the United States District Court. It may be stated that Charles L. Lawrence was peculiarly gifted, so to speak; he knew a little of the Spanish language, a little French, and a good quantity of Hebrew, thus exemplifying the fact that "a little learning is a dangerous thing." He was selected for these scholarly qualities to examine the baggage of passengers arriving by the French and Havana steamers, with what advantage to the "ring" the readers may judge.

The counsel for the government, in the cross-examination of two of their witnesses, went to show that a singular state of facts, and it became apparent to the Commissioner that a disposition to hamstring the case was sought that might be set down as a disgrace to the powers at Sullivan street. Several hypothetical questions put by Commissioner Osborn elicited the fact that a system of collusion with crime was resorted to in order to find out and round up cases to make a moiety for all concerned, and not to convict the smugglers.

Louis J. Kirk, deputy surveyor, in his examination-in-chief stated that for the past ten years he has been an employé of the custom revenue, and during that time the school of criminals which he was taught was in all cases to go for moieties and allow the smuggler to go scot free.

The defendant McCrum was asked by the Commissioner to make a statement in the case, and he did, but it failed to convince the Assistant District Attorney or the Commissioner that he had acted with good faith towards the government. Evidence was offered of good character of the man and his efficiency as an officer when connected with the Custom House by Abraham Wakeman, who also made an eloquent speech in his behalf. Then came E. H. Webster, late Assessor for the thirty-second district, who desired to make a speech, but was choked off by Commissioner Osborn. Timothy C. Dwight also gave testimony of good character; one in answer to interrogatories put by Commissioner Osborn as to his antecedents he stated that he had been for two years special Treasury agent, and thanked his God that he was removed by Andy Johnson. It is a singular coincidence that all the witnesses for the defence were government officers, or had been; and it is now shown that two officers outside the precincts of the Custom House have been instrumental in ferreting out these frauds and have strengthened their reputation as no drones in employes of the government, in putting an end to a nest of smugglers and breaking the back bone of the "ring" in the Custom House of New York.

The Court found that the offence of smuggling was fully proven and that no legitimate or interior object was shown as having actuated the defendant to adopt such a course as he had pursued, and his decision was that he, William H. McCrum, be committed to the custody of the United States Marshal, to be held by him to await the action of the Grand Jury for the Northern district of New York, where the offence had been committed of smuggling five barrels of nutmegs across the frontier with intent to defraud the government of the United States of the duties due thereon.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

Prominent Arrivals in This City Yesterday.

Judge W. Mullins, of Watertown; General P. S. Sullivan, of Cincinnati; Colonel W. Dwight, of Binghamton; Judge J. D. Rice, of Augusta, Me.; General Hall and General James Craig, of Missouri; G. W. Hutchinson, of Barbados; Colonel H. R. Pierson and J. B. Townsend, of Chicago, are at the St. Nicholas Hotel.

Dr. R. J. Whitley, of Paterson, N. J., Frederick L. Castle, of San Francisco, and Mrs. T. D. Bowen, of Providence, are at the Grand Hotel.

W. E. Henderson, of West Point; Mr. and Mrs. P. M. Bromley, of Rochester, from Paris, and B. R. Spelding, of Albany, are at the Coleman House.

General W. B. Tibbets, of Troy; S. L. Crosby, of Pennsylvania, and John F. Andrews, of Boston, are at the Hoffman House.

Colonel W. A. Ballou and George A. Pope, of Baltimore, and Colonel C. B. Patterson, of the United States Army, are at the Everett House.

Professor W. P. Schell, of Pennsylvania; Dr. G. B. Harris, of Buffalo, and Captain W. Cavanagner, of the United States Army, are at the St. Charles Hotel.

General James Sykes, General P. Gardner and Colonel J. H. Wall, of Washington; General A. N. Currier, of Massachusetts; Colonel O. G. Ditmar, of California; Judge J. S. Woods and Judge J. C. Tewksbury, of Michigan; General W. H. Tallman, of New York; General T. C. Davis, of Buffalo, and Judge C. H. Curtis, of Minnesota, are at the Metropolitan Hotel.

Captain A. R. Dunscomb, of New Orleans, and Colonel H. F. Warren, of Washington, are at the Irving House.

Colonel J. W. H. Sniper, of Baltimore; S. W. Jones, J. D. Hoover and J. G. Berritt, of Washington, are at the New York Hotel.

THE THORN ROBBERIES.

One of the Ruffians Sent to Sing Sing for Fifteen Years, Another Acquitted and a Third in the Balance.

James P. Williams, one of three men implicated in the robbery of and desperate attack on the residence of Robert Thorn, a Duchess county farmer, in January last, was placed on trial yesterday at Poughkeepsie, in the Duchess county Court of Sessions. It will be remembered that the ruffians seized and bound Mrs. Pratt, the housekeeper, threatened to kill her, knocked Mr. Thorn senseless and endeavored to make Mrs. Pratt disclose the place in which Thorn's money and valuables were kept. Mr. Thorn subsequently died, his death, it is believed, being superinduced by the shock to his nervous system. Mrs. Pratt identified Williams yesterday as one of the men who tied her. The jury found him guilty and he was sentenced by Judge Anthony to fifteen years' imprisonment. Shortly afterwards Williams, who is a desperate scoundrel, struck one of the guards in the court room a violent blow in the face.

Peter Williams and James Lee, his confederates in crime, were next tried. The Court instructed the jury to acquit Peter, the evidence not being conclusive against him. At a late hour last evening the jury had not rendered a verdict in Lee's case.