ALEXIS.

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PROPOSED RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

The subject of universal interest throughout the city yesterday was the expected landing on the soil of the United States of his Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Alexis. His safe arrival in our waters, after a long and stormy voyage, was known to our citizens on Sunday by means of the exclusive intelligence published in that morning's issue of the HERALD, and yesterday the telegraph told the glad tidings in every section of the Union, from Maine to California. Nor was the news confined to the United States or to this side of the Atlantic; but it was sent immediately to Europe through the medium of that wonderful "vital spark of heavenly flame" which has annihilated space and enabled communication between distant continents and countries to become instantaneous. The Czar himself received the news at an early hour on Sunday, and a telegraphic message from him to his honored son was received in this city on Sunday afternoon. Had the weather proved propitious yesterday His Imperial Highness would have landed and have now been comfortably quartered at the Clarendon; but inasmuch as it proved otherwise the reception which awaits him is postponed until to-day, if the weather be fine, and if not, until the first fine day thereafter.

The impatience of our citizens to greet our royal visitor is almost boundless. This was plainly indicated yesterday by the crowds of people who, unmindful of all other duties, pleasures or inclinations, assembled all along the river front in the neighborhood of the Battery, where, according to arrangement, the debarkation would take place, and remained for hours in the pouring rain, waiting to greet him when he landed. On Sunday night the indications were exceedingly unfavorable for pleasant weather yesterday, and the prognostications that came from the bureau of the Chief Signal Officer in Washington at one o'clock yesterday morning were more than realized in the sequel. There seemed to be a very general impression that the day would be unfavorable for the reception; and the official scientific announcement of the weather "probabilities" to the effect that "the barometer will probably fall slightly on Monday in the Middle and Eastern States, with southeasterly winds, veering to southwest, with threatening weather and possibly rain," might almost have been regarded as an official announcement that it would be necessary to postpone the grand civic and military display that had been arranged to take place in the afternoon. Scarcely had the scientific prophecy been printed before the rain began to fall; the earliest risers found the sky obscured and the streets of the city wet with rain, and saw but little, if any, prospect of a clearer sky by noon. Many thousands were sadly disappointed. Orders had been promulgated to the militia regiments to be in readiness in their armories to participate in the procession which was to have escorted His Imperial Highness from the landing place to his hotel, and all our citizens were prepared to join in or to witness it, according to the arrangements. But all were equally doomed to disappointment, for the sky still continued to be obscured and the rain to fall.

PERPLEXITIES OF THE RECEPTION COMMITTEE.

The members of the Executive Committee having charge of the reception were especially perplexed, not knowing whether to attempt to carry out the programme, to practically abandon it, or to countermand the orders. Their predicament was rendered still more perplexing and more delicate in view of the fact that they had no means of knowing at an early hour the pleasure of the Grand Duke with reference to his landing, and which proper courtesy to the royal visitor compelled them to consult before either continuing or countermanding the arrangements. The Executive Committee met at the Clarendon Hotel, and, after a hasty consultation, just when appearances gave some promise of a more pleasant afternoon, concluded to carry out the programme, but hardly had they arrived at this conclusion before the rain began to come down in more copious showers, and they were disappointed, undecided and perplexed again. They subsequently decided to proceed on board the steamer Mary Powell, at the foot of Vestry street, and to hold a general consultation as to what had best be done. After remaining on board an hour, during which time members of the Reception Committee, accompanied by their ladies, continued to arrive, it was deemed best to ascertain immediately the wishes of His Imperial Highness. The order was given to proceed down the bay to meet the Russian squadron and communicate with the Grand Duke and the Russian Admiral. Accordingly, the Mary Powell was just preparing to leave the wharf when

THE RUSSIAN MINISTER AND SUITE

drove up. The splendid band of the Twenty-first regiment, under the direction of Mr. Jullien, who had the management of the music on the steamer, struck up the Russian national hymn. Mr. Catacazy and the attaches of the Legation who were with him immediately uncovered their heads and marched on board to the music of their national hymn. After a short conference with the Executive Committee Mr. Catacazy took his departure, the musical honors being repeated as he went ashore. It was then announced to those on board that the result of the conference was that the committee would proceed to communicate with the Russian flagship and learn the pleasure of the Prince. So the Mary Powell started, the band playing suitable selections as she steamed down the river. Meanwhile the Russian Minister and suite had driven round to the Battery and gone on board a United States revenue cutter; but when the Mary Powell approached it was observed that the Russian squadron had just arrived and anchored in the stream opposite that point, and so the Minister returned on board the committee steamer, and thence proceeded to the Svetlana. Before mentioning the subsequent proceedings we must take a look at the fleet as it came up the bay.

THE ESCORT BY THE FLEET.

"What a day is this for a princely pageant!" was the natural exclamation that greeted the HERALD reporter's ears as he turned out of his bunk on board the United States frigate Congress yesterday morning.

What a day, indeed!

Rain falling as if through a sieve, and that thick fogginess which grew and fattened on the breeze blowing from the east-northeast, wrapping everything in its haziness. He looked out through the port light, and the result was far from reassuring. On the spar deck the crew were engaged in the somewhat unnecessary operation of washing it. The two fleets lay at anchor, but it could just be seen that the Russians were getting up steam by the long trains of black smoke issuing from their smokestacks and mingling with the fog. The Americans had been signalled to spread fires, but the same evidence could not be elicited from their smokestacks, as they were fortunate enough not to be burning soft coal. It was just eight o'clock, and on the gun deck the stout voice of the executive officer, Mr. Sampson, was heard singing out:—

"STAND CLEAR OF THE BATTERY."

They were about to give the salute in honor of the Russian Vice Admiral Possiet, which could not be given on Sunday night, as he left the ship after sundown. The rattling snare drum now rolled off to a life accompaniment, and the Stars and Stripes were run up at the peak. The brass band, according to the olden custom, now played the "Star Spangled Banner," and as the last note died out on the murky air the same clear voice sang out, with two seconds' pause between the words:—

"STARBOARD—FIRE."

A vivid flash, a thundering boom from the nine-inch gun, a dense cloud of smoke, and the first iron-tongued note of the day was spoken. Fifteen guns in all were fired, with the blue cross of Russia at the main. In about twenty seconds from the last report the Svetlana ran up the American flag at her main, and the salute was returned. With this piece of powder courtesy the officers went to breakfast, and it could be seen that weather is no criterion whereby to judge the spirits of mortals. Everything was joyous. At a quarter to nine o'clock the signal was hoisted at Admiral's Rowan's order,

"WEIGH ANCHOR."

It could be seen that the vessels of the Russian fleet were also shortening in their anchor chains. The next signal hoisted was to form in line to escort the Russians to New York. It was some few minutes after nine when the Svetlana's anchor was made fast, and the Bogatire and Abreck were then seen to be under way. Slowly the great ships swung round with a majesty which impressed you with the greater force because of the dimness with which the movement could be seen. The shore was all lost to sight except the Jersey Highlands, which loomed up like a darker bank of mist than that which enshrouded them. The wind was light and the sea just broken into wavelets, while the rain descended steadily. It was fortunate, as well as wise, that the Czar of all the Russias, in the depth of his imperial wisdom, decided that his son Alexis should be received as a simple lieutenant on the shores of the free republic and without the pomp and circumstance attending one of the blood of Michael Romanoff. The flags to be used in dressing ship lay on the gun deck, but it was certain that they were not to stream from masthead to yardarm till the great ships were decked in their brilliant colors from stem to stern. The life-lines were ready, and had been for five weeks past, to be bent, that the tars of our navy might have something to grasp when manning yards, but the ships were to float in with sombre mightiness, without a man aloft. It seemed dreary in that pelting rain and streaming mist, that shifted, but would not away. Soon the broad-breasted Svetlana steamed round abreast of the American flagship, Admiral Possiet's pennant floating at the fore. The corvette Bogatire had taken her place beside the Severn. The clipper Abreck headed round until she was abreast of the Iroquois, and the Kansas could be made out far away taking up her position in the rear. The American line stretched along towards the Staten Island shore, while the Russians were toward the coast of Long Island. There were about fifty yards between the Svetlana and the Congress.

ORDER OF SAILING.

Congress,	Svetlana,
Severn,	Bogatire,
Iroquois,	Abreck,
	Kansas.

Vice Admiral Rowan was pacing the quarter deck of the Congress, wrapped in his cloak, and ever and anon ordering signals to be hoisted with the same *sangfroid* as when he fired the first shot upon the water for the Union, on board the Pawnee, in the terrible days of our civil war.

"I thought we could show them something like the welcome they gave to Farragut," he said to the HERALD reporter.

"The clerk of the weather and the Czar were in the way, Admiral."

The grim old sailor walked up and down, heedless of the rain, thinking, no doubt, on Providence and Emperors generally. While listening to the words of the kings among men of the sea it is sometimes just as well to note the sergeants of the seafarers. Forward of the mainmast were a group of boatswain's mates, mightily important men in their way when there is need of their shrill whistles or their deep, gruff voices and their keen weather eyes. Said one old shellback to another:—

"Bad!"

"Farragut's weather," was the reply.

"With him at Croustadt? Ah, that was something!" and the old shellback gurgled in his throat with an approval which only belongs to the barnacled man-o'-war's-man—

"At his funeral—just such a smoky day."

"Now, lookee yer, I says Farragut's weather, and this is what it amounts to. All this fuss about the young Rooshian is on account o' Farragut; and mark my words, whenever we pipe all hands to honor anybody for honoring Farragut the skies is bound to be piping their eyes for the old man."

Not much for international courtesies did that group of salts care, and hence it is not hard to see why they ignored the higher grounds on which America welcomes a scion of the only royal house which was our friend in our time of trouble. As the two fleets moved on through the haze, cleaving the waters of the bay, the enigma of the mutual friendliness between the absolute and the free came up, and with it the thought that there was something in the remark of a young Russian officer at the dinner on board the Congress the night before.

"You see, Monsieur, we are two nations only just born as it were."

Across the clouded heavens and the mist which rose for a moment from the sea and wrapped itself around the tall spars of the Muscovite frigate to windward, until it hid the Russian cross at the fore, there swept like shadows the ghosts of

THE PAGEANTS OF CENTURIES AGO,

when 2,000 Russian barks swept through the blue waters in barbaric splendor up even to the Byzantium, when Oleg, the Regent, hung his shield upon its gates and dreamed he and his horde of 80,000 barbarians were arbiters of the world. Or the form of the rugged Peter rising over the empire he was about to drag in his forceful way from among the barbarians, and plant in its rude might among the Powers of a civilized world.

We could just make out the hull of the dismantled Delaware, with its plague-taunted crew, and, like a fearful parody on the old sea song, a gruff voice was heard to murmur:—

With the Muscovite to windward,
And the cholera on our lee,
We sailed from Sandy Hook in mist
And chorused merrily.

The Narrows—the great water gate of Gotham—was now but a little distance off, yet the shores of Staten Island could not be seen. As, however, we passed this sea portal the lines of Fort Wadsworth appeared, silent and apparently untenanted. Onward we swept, and the first sign of any recognition met was in a few flags on a ship at anchor near Upper Quarantine, that looked limp and lifeless as they hung along the mast. At about half-past eleven the revenue cutter Northerner, with some flags flying, was seen, and then the Chancellor and the Henry Smith. The round form of Castle William, on Governor's Island, could just be made out ahead and the Congress stowed down to give the Svetlana the place of honor in advance, and also that she might choose her own anchorage. All eyes were bent on the Russian frigate, and as she neared the fort the Stars and Stripes were again run up to her main, followed by the booming of her guns.

A NATIONAL SALUTE

of twenty-one guns was counted and the Admiral said:—

"We do not return that salute; the fort must answer it."

But for some reason the moments passed without any sign being made on the island, save a body of blue-coats running down to gape at the passing fleets. Everybody was chagrined at the bungling delay, and choice briney English was hurled under the teeth at "the soldiers." As we steamed slowly past the Battery into the North River a line of umbrellas could be made out, ranged along the seawall, with sight-loving Gothamites under them—a miracle of rain-and-fog-defying humanity. As we came opposite pier No. 1 the Mary Powell, gayly decked with flags, was seen near the dock.

The Svetlana dropped her anchor near the New York shore, just abreast of the Mary Powell, at a quarter to twelve. After waiting a few minutes the orders, "Stand by your port anchor; stand clear of your port chain; let go your port anchor," were heard on board the Congress and we were anchored. Both admirals now hoisted signals to their squadrons, and in obedience thereto the Bogatire and the Severn passed their respective flagships and anchored up the stream. The Abreck followed, and, after some few minutes the Iroquois and Kansas, until both fleets lay in order as follows, the flagships being nearest to the Battery:—

Svetlana.	Congress.
Bogatire.	Severn.
Abreck.	Iroquois.
	Kansas.

As the Iroquois was passing the flagship, the large eleven inch guns on Governor's Island thundered out their tardy salute, but which told that though the gunners were not so promptly at their posts as they might have been the good will of the people this Russian Prince was visiting was there, even if its sulphurous expression came a little late.

ON STATEN ISLAND AND THE FERRYBOATS.

The heavy, continuous rains which fell during the forenoon and afternoon prevented thousands of persons from visiting Staten Island. Had the weather been propitious there would undoubtedly have been a multitude of citizens along Staten Island shore to see the entrance of the combined fleets through the Narrows, and pleasure boats, steamboats and other craft would have added to the brilliancy of the spectacle. But, as it was, only very few person left the city yesterday morning for Staten Island, and those who did go preferred, when landed, to protect themselves from the inclemency of the weather rather than ineffectually strain their eyes to catch a glimpse of the vessels passing by. In fact, it was impossible to discern the forms of any of them, owing to the thick haze that settled over the bay. Some experienced individuals of the little crowd who ventured to watch for the Grand Duke thought they could see in the dim distance the Svetlana and the Congress, side by side, but no others of the fleets were visible. The result of this was, of course, a disgust toward the clerk of the weather, and the unlucky mortals who ventured down to the island full of patriotism and anxiety had only left them the doleful pleasure of softening down their chagrin in neighboring refreshment places. On the boats coming from Staten Island more uncomfortable looking people could not well be seen. Wet and dejected, and suffering from other easily imagined ills, they retired into corners or grouped in sulky silence around the sickly stoves, pictures of disconsolate sightseers. On nearing the city they seized the only available pleasure left them, which was to get out on deck and indulge in some speculation as to the men-of-war lying in the harbor stripped of all decorations and deserted of all anticipation of a gorgeous display. Altogether, the rain spoiled a very pleasant day on Staten Island, and made a few people rather more miserable than otherwise.

ON BOARD THE MARY POWELL.

To return to what transpired on board the committee steamer Mary Powell. The steamer was not crowded, many members of the Reception Committee and especially their ladies being absent in consequence of the belief that the reception would be postponed until a more pleasant day. The active members of the committee, however, and a comparatively large number of ladies were in attendance. The weather prevented the ladies appearing in very gay costume. After Mr. Catacazy and his suite had come aboard from off the revenue cutter a boat from the Russian flagship was sent over to the Mary Powell for him, and he immediately proceeded on board the Svetlana. The Minister and the other members of his suite remained there while Mr. Danzas, the First Secretary of the Russian Legation, came back with the boat to the Mary Powell, and conveyed the members of the Executive Committee on board the flagship of the Russian squadron. The band played a lively air, and the interest among those on board the steamer was increased as the Executive Committee boarded the Svetlana to inquire the pleasure of the Prince. The gentlemen who had this honor were Mr. William H. Aspinwall, Major General Dix, Major General McDowell, General Lloyd Aspinwall, Mr. R. L. Stuart, Mr. S. J. Macy, Mr. H. H. Clews, Mr. Albert Bierstadt, Mr. Taylor Johnson and Mr. Josiah Macy. A salute was fired by the Svetlana when the gentlemen touched her deck. They were first received at the gangway by Vice Admiral Possiet, who first conducted them to his own quarters and subsequently to those of the Grand Duke. The gentlemen of the Executive Committee were then introduced to His Imperial Highness, who received them very cordially and invited them to seats.

General McDowell then apprised him of the object of their visit, stating that they had come to welcome him to the shores of the United States, and that preparations had been made to receive him on land, but in consequence of the inclemency of the weather they could not be carried out that day. The committee, therefore, would be pleased to know if it would be the pleasure of His Imperial Highness to have the reception postponed until to-morrow (which is to-day).

The Grand Duke replied in English that he felt deeply impressed with the honor they had conferred upon him; that he would leave it with the committee themselves to fix the time for his reception, and their decision would be quite agreeable to him.

The interview was exceedingly satisfactory, and the gentlemen returned to their steamer delighted with the impression the Grand Duke had made upon them. As they left the Svetlana the band on board of her played "Hail Columbia." Afterward General McDowell and Mr. Aspinwall went on board the Congress and invited Admiral Rowan and the other American naval officers to come on board the Mary Powell to-day to participate in the reception. The steamer then returned to her dock at the foot of Vestry street, the band playing "Home, Sweet Home," as the ladies and gentlemen were landing.

The Executive Committee met afterwards and prepared the following

OFFICIAL NOTICE FOR TO-DAY:

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR THE RECEPTION OF H. I. H. THE GRAND DUKE ALEXIS OF RUSSIA, 845 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, Nov. 20, 1871.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee, held on board the steamer Mary Powell, it was resolved that as His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Alexis had kindly consented to postpone his landing until the first fair day, the following programme was decided upon:—

That the Executive and Reception Committees, with invited guests, should meet on board the steamer Mary Powell, at foot of Vestry street, to-morrow (Tuesday) morning, at eleven o'clock (should the weather prove unfavorable, then the first fair day thereafter), and proceed alongside the Russian fleet, and, after receiving on board His Imperial Highness, Admiral Possiet and others of the squadron, as also His Excellency Mr. Catacazy and suite, proceed a short distance down the bay, when General Dix will welcome the Grand Duke on behalf of the citizens of New York. The steamer will then proceed to pier No. 1 North River, arriving about half-past twelve, where the military, under command of General Shaler, will escort him, as heretofore published, the line of march being up Broadway to Fourteenth street, passing Union square and the grand stand on the east side, and to the Clarendon Hotel, where the Grand Duke will review the troops from the balcony.

The Reception Committee and invited guests will return to pier 39 North River, where carriages and omnibuses will be in readiness to convey them to the grand stand at Union square.

It was further requested that the Executive Committee meet on board the steamer Mary Powell punctually at eleven o'clock to-morrow, or, should the weather prove stormy, the first fair day thereafter. S. J. MACY, Secretary *pro tem.*

THE MILITARY ORDERS.

The following orders were issued late yesterday afternoon, so as to give the members of the different regiments ample time to get ready for the parade to-day. The order of march and the general arrangements for the parade will be the same that were previously fixed upon. It is presumed that orders have been issued to all the regiments that were called out by the First division orders some time ago. In order to avoid any misunderstanding on the part of those who desire to witness the parade it should be borne in mind that there will be no procession to-day should the weather not be fine, and that the parade will take place the "first fine day" afterwards. However, rain or shine, the military will assemble to await events:—

THE FIRST DIVISION.
SPECIAL ORDERS—NO. 29.
HEADQUARTERS FIRST DIVISION, N. G. S. N. Y., NEW YORK, Nov. 20, 1871.

The division line will be formed at twelve o'clock M., tomorrow, the 21st inst., for the parade in honor of the Grand Duke Alexis of Russia. By order of Major General SHALER,
THOMAS FAIRGRIEVE, Captain, A. D. C. and A. A. A. G.

THE FIRST BRIGADE.
GENERAL ORDERS—NO. 8.
HEADQUARTERS FIRST BRIGADE, FIRST DIVISION, NATIONAL GUARD, S. N. Y., NEW YORK, Nov. 20, 1871.

The infantry regiments of this brigade will parade in honor of the Grand Duke Alexis to-morrow, November 21. The Twelfth, Twenty-second and Seventy-first regiments will form in column of companies on the north side of Union square promptly at eleven o'clock A. M. The Sixty-ninth and Seventy-ninth regiments will join the command on Broadway by half-past eleven A. M., as heretofore ordered. By order of Brigadier General WARD,
JAMES L. ANTHONY, Assistant Adjutant General.

THE FIRST REGIMENT.
GENERAL ORDERS—NO. 17.
HEADQUARTERS FIRST INFANTRY, N. G. S. N. Y., HAWKINS ZOUAVES, NEW YORK, Nov. 20, 1871.

This regiment will parade this day for the reception of Alexis, Grand Duke of Russia. Companies will assemble for roll call at the armory at ten o'clock A. M., without regard to weather. By order of A. P. WEBSTER, Lieutenant Colonel Commanding.
R. LIVINGSTON LUCKEY, Adjutant.

THE EIGHTH REGIMENT.
GENERAL ORDERS—NO. 10.
HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH REGIMENT, N. G. S. N. Y., NEW YORK, Nov. 21, 1871.

This regiment will parade on Tuesday, November 21, 1871, to participate in the reception of His Imperial Highness Alexis, Grand Duke of Russia.

Regimental line will be formed at the armory at ten o'clock A. M. Roll call of companies at forty-five minutes past nine A. M. By order of GEORGE D. SCOTT, Colonel.
J. B. HILLS, Adjutant.

NINTH REGIMENT.
GENERAL ORDERS—NO. 14.
HEADQUARTERS NINTH REGIMENT, N. G. S. N. Y., NEW YORK, Nov. 20, 1871.

In compliance with special orders from division and brigade headquarters this command will parade to-morrow (21st inst.) in full dress uniform (white gloves).

Roll call of companies at the armory at nine o'clock A. M. Field and staff (mounted) will report to the Colonel and non-commissioned staff, band and field music to the Adjutant at the same time and place. By order of JAMES FISK, Jr., Colonel.
EDGAR S. ALLIEN, Adjutant.

THE TWENTY-THIRD REGIMENT.
GENERAL ORDER NO. 10.
HEADQUARTERS TWENTY-THIRD REGT., N. G. S. N. Y., BROOKLYN, Nov. 20, 1871.

This regiment will assemble at the armory to-morrow (Tuesday) morning, at ten o'clock, in full dress uniform, black belts, knapsacks, with overcoats rolled thereon, to join in the reception of His Imperial Highness Alexis, Grand Duke of Russia. By order of RODNEY C. WARD, Colonel.
H. S. MANNING, Brevet Captain and Adjutant.

THE FORTY-SEVENTH REGIMENT.
GENERAL ORDERS—NO. 10.
HEADQUARTERS FORTY-SEVENTH REGIMENT, N. G. S. N. Y., BROOKLYN, E. D., Nov. 20, 1871.

The parade of this regiment to participate in the reception of His Imperial Highness, Alexis, Grand Duke of Russia, is postponed until Tuesday, November 21, at nine o'clock A. M. All of the provisions of General Orders No. 9 will continue as applicable to the parade of the 21st inst.
By order of DAVID E. AUSTIN, Colonel.
HENRY HASLER, First Lieutenant and Adjutant.

THE SEVENTY-NINTH REGIMENT.
GENERAL ORDERS.
HEADQUARTERS SEVENTY-NINTH BATTALION, N. G. S. N. Y., NEW YORK, Nov. 20, 1871.

This command will assemble at the armory on Tuesday, November 21, at 10 o'clock A. M., rain or shine.

Field and staff will report mounted to the Colonel commanding at 10:30 A. M.

Non-commissioned staff, band and drum corps will report to the Adjutant at 10:15 A. M.

Line will be formed at 10:45 A. M. precisely.
By command of JOHN J. SHAW, Colonel.
WM. LINDSAY, Adjutant.

AT THE CLARENDON HOTEL.

Everything is in readiness for the Grand Duke at the Clarendon Hotel. The preparations were perfected on Saturday, so that no new work of embellishment was necessary yesterday. Last evening a number of the officers of the Russian fleet dined with the Russian Minister at the hotel and for a time there was quite an excitement in the neighborhood, a rumor having become current that the Prince himself had come *incog.*

This rumor seemed to afford much satisfaction to a good many curious people, who, despite the rain, loitered about the hotel entrance in the hopes of catching a glimpse of the Duke. Some of them went so far as to go into the vestibule of the house under one pretence and another, and came out rather hurriedly, with their faces all aglow with excitement.

"Did you see him?" was the exclamation that burst from the lips of the less venturesome loiterers outside.

"Yes, sirree," replied one rather flashily dressed looking youth.

"How does he look?"

"He's all dressed up in policeman's clothes."

The fact is that the stairway leading to the Grand Dukes side of the house, where the Russian officers were dining, was guarded by a stalwart member of of the police force. He it was who had made the bolder of the sight-seers leave the vestibule so hurriedly. It is needless to state that the Grand Duke was not at the hotel, *incog* or otherwise.

THE RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

The Grand Duke to Pray—The Birthday Anniversary of the Czarinawitch.

It is customary for the Russian royal family, or any members thereof, when travelling to pay their first visits to the Greek church. It was therefore believed that Prince Alexis would visit the Russian Embassy's chapel, in Second avenue, last evening. A representative of the HERALD called twice yesterday at Rev. Mr. Bjerring's residence to make inquiries respecting the religious services that would take place in view of the presence of the royal stranger. At the time of the reporter's first visit the gentleman was absent in consultation with the Russian Minister, M. Catacazy, to learn the wishes of the Grand Duke and to prepare for him. At a later hour Mr. Bjerring was at home, but he was unable to say positively when His Imperial Highness would visit the Greek chapel. In accordance with national custom he was expected there yesterday, had the day been fine and had he landed. But under the present circumstances Mr. Bjerring thought it probable that the Grand Duke would be so weary and the hour at which the reception would close might be so late as to prevent His Imperial Highness from visiting the chapel on the same day on which he lands. And as he is expected to go to Washington on Wednesday, there will not be time for a visit to the chapel until after his return. There is no doubt at all, however, that the Grand Duke and suite will be present at the chapel next Sunday—that being

THE BIRTHDAY OF THE CZARINAWITCH,

the future Empress of Russia. Special services will be held and a "Te Deum Laudamus" will be sung in honor of the event. Should the Grand Duke attend chapel before Sunday a "Te Deum" will be sung also for his safe arrival here.

In any case there will be no chance for the curious public to gain entrance to the chapel, which, being in a private house, is consequently small, and cannot accommodate many, and the admission being by ticket, the discrimination as to numbers and persons must be apparent. In conversation with a HERALD representative yesterday Mr. Bjerring regretted that he could not admit members of the press, and said that, besides having a small place of worship, it is the property of the Russian Embassy, and the clergyman has no control over it save to minister in it. Next year, however, he hopes to have a larger place and ample accommodations for services and worshippers according to the rites of the Russian-Greek Church.

ALEXIS' VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

Arrangements for the Reception at the Executive Mansion.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20, 1871.

No information has yet been received by the government officially stating when the Grand Duke Alexis will arrive here. The arrangements for his presentation to the President will be made by Secretary Fish and Minister Catacazy, and the presentation will probably take place on the day succeeding his arrival at noon. There will be no formal speechmaking and no public display at the presentation, which will take place in the Blue Room at the White House. The President will be attended by the Cabinet, and the Duke by his suite and Minister Catacazy, who will introduce him to President and Cabinet. Then he will be escorted to the Red Room and presented to Mrs. Grant, and after a short time spent in conversation will retire, and return to New York the next day. The usual crowd of curious ones will be gathered around the door of the Executive Mansion to get a glimpse of the much talked of Alexis, but none will be admitted to the interior of the building.

It is customary on such occasions for the visitor to receive a call from the Secretary of State soon after his arrival in the city and prior to his presentation to the President. In accordance with this custom Secretary Fish will call upon him on the evening of his arrival or before noon the next day.

It was heretofore arranged that Alexis, who had expressed a wish to that effect, would be gratified with a buffalo hunt on the great plains. Had he arrived in October General Sheridan would have organized a hunting party; but the latter is now of the opinion that the hunt will have to be abandoned, owing to the lateness of the season and the prevalence of snows.

RUSSIAN RELIGIOUS RIGOR.

The Evangelical Alliance on Religious Freedom of the Czar's Subjects—The Czar and Prince Gortchakoff in Favor of Religious Freedom—The Alliance Delegates to Russia Satisfied with the Result of their Mission.

At the hall of the Young Men's Christian Association, last evening, a public reception was given by the Evangelical Alliance to the gentlemen deputed by them to lay before the Czar of Russia a memorial for religious freedom to all the people of His Majesty's dominions. Quite a large number of ladies and gentlemen were present. Professor Morse presided.

After the singing of a Psalm and prayer the Rev. Dr. Prime stated the object the deputation had to accomplish on their mission, and closed by moving a resolution expressing grateful appreciation of the services they had rendered to the cause of religious freedom. The resolution was, of course, adopted. Then several of the delegates, including Rev. Dr. Schaff, Rev. Dr. Adams, Mr. Nathan Bishop, John Crosby Brown and others, made brief addresses, the tenor of which was highly eulogistic of the Czar and Prince Gortchakoff. The audience, about which so much has been said, between Gortchakoff and the deputation occurred at Friedrichshafen on Friday, 14th of July, and the several members were presented by Dr. Schaff. The American delegation was accompanied by several European delegations. The audience lasted over two hours, during which the Prince conversed in three different languages, so that all the deputations should be thoroughly conversant with what he had to say. The result, in brief, of the conversation was that the Emperor could not allow himself to be interfered with in the government of his own subjects. Requests coming from such influential gentlemen in their own countries might look before the world as foreign intervention; but the Prince, on his own part and on the part of the Czar, said that they were both in favor of religious liberty, and the deputations might use that statement as they pleased. An immediate effect of the interview was that the Greek-Russian priests, who had been previously persecuting those who were Lutherans, were ordered immediately to desist; but though this was done the laws crushing religious liberty were not disturbed. The Prince had previous to the audience been privately made acquainted with the American memorial, and when it was handed to him by the deputation, was about to receive it for presentation to the Czar, but the English memorial was then about to be presented, and this the Prince had not already seen. The Prince requested to peruse it before accepting it, and, having done so, concluded that it contained strictures on the Russian government, and declined to receive it. He then asked, under the circumstances, that the American delegation would withdraw their memorial, which was done.

Some of the speakers desired it to be understood that the meeting last evening was meant in no way to disturb the harmony of the preparations now made in honor of the Grand Duke Alexis. Dr. Schaffe even went so far as to say that once the Czar gave his subjects religious freedom then began the destruction of Turkey, and here lay the solution of the Eastern question.

THOUGHTS FOR ALEXIS AND OURSELVES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

As usual in such cases the HERALD is the first to announce the arrival of our distinguished visitor. While we extend a nation's hospitalities to the young man let not our American sons and daughters forget their own importance. Let them turn to their school maps and they will see their own country, with 10,000 miles of sea coast, and their geography will prove that America is the richest country in the world. Let not the Grand Duke forget while he drives up Broadway that there is no one street in any other city of any other country on the face of the globe that can boast of equal wealth. Let not our "boys in blue" forget that our nation can put three million troops in the field, completely armed and equipped, in a remarkably short time, and maintain them there while necessary, and retire them to peaceful avocations instantaneously, without danger to citizen or soldier. Let us all remember that the "Stars and Stripes" form the handsomest flag that ever kissed the breeze, on land or sea, and that in the future, as in the past, it will cheer the foreign traveller in every port, reminding him of "the land of the free and the home of the brave." POLLOCK.

THE HERALD AND THE DUKE.

How the First News of the Arrival of the Svetlana Was Obtained.

Enterprise Will Proclaim Itself—The Why, the How and the Wherefore of the Herald's Success in Collecting Marine News—What Was Done in the Lower Bay on Saturday Night.

All sailors who go down to the sea in ships and pass Sandy Hook on their way to do business in great waters must recognize the ability, energy and enterprise of the HERALD in the deep. The reports published daily in this paper give abundant evidence of the superior and unblinking vigilance of its employés. Not a day elapses but the columns of the paper display evidence of enterprise and journalistic ability without comparison. Every item of marine news interesting to mariners which prudent care, unmeasured expenditure, tact and energy combined can procure, is each morning presented in these columns for the information of the people. This being well understood by the community but little surprise was manifested when the HERALD appeared on Sunday morning with an exclusive report of the arrival of the Grand Duke Alexis. But every citizen felt elated that the enterprise of this paper was properly and fittingly rewarded.

Fully satisfied that so marked a journalistic triumph interested every intelligent person in the community a HERALD reporter was despatched to describe the why and how of the news victory of Sunday morning; and that he might not lose a single paragraph of the account of the triumph, the writer went out to sea in the yacht Herald and heard anew the thrilling story of her cruise on that eventful Saturday night. The result is before our readers.

When it was first announced that the Russian fleet had sailed from the island of Madeira the officers of the steam yachts Herald and Jeannette were instructed to watch

THE ARRIVAL OF THE FOREIGN SHIPS

and communicate their arrival, when that interesting event occurred, direct to this office. The masters of the yachts had strict orders to spare no expense in the discharge of this duty; they might have employed a dozen steamtugs as a reinforcement to their fleet if they so desired. The result shows that, as in the collection of marine news, this was unnecessary. The Herald and Jeannette were equal to the situation.

Three weeks' incessant watch in the lower bay and outside the Hook necessarily wearied the HERALD marines and the staff of reporters commanding them; but, determined to maintain the grand position of the HERALD as the paper first in peace, first in war and first in the hearts of its readers, they kept out to sea, in wet weather as in warm, while winds were adverse as when they were favorable, in calm as in storm, and maintained a bright look-out for the Russian Prince. The men suffered very much in the tempestuous weather which preceded the arrival of the guest of the nation; but, faithful to their trust, they patroled the mouth of the bay by day and by night. Usually they steamed out, either in the Herald or the Jeanette, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, and bobbed about in the Atlantic, miles beyond the land. When day broke over the water they returned, only to prepare for another excursion on the waves without the Hook. But whether within or without the bay, the

INTERESTS OF THE INCOMING AND OUTGOING SHIPMASTERS

were not neglected; the marine intelligence was collected as usual, and messages from the ships to the shore and from the shore to the ships were as punctually delivered, free of charge, as usual. Even the expected arrival of the Grand Duke of Russia brought no confusion to the business arrangements of the marine department of the HERALD.

The Jeanette was lying in at Staten Island on Saturday night. She was in a chapel of ease at the Quarantine landing. Her turn would come next day. The Herald was, however, ready for sea; eight men, with the customary number of reporters, were on board her, and her steam was up. She was busily wriggling and pushing amid the shipping in the lower bay. Night closed deeply down on the water when the sun winked and sunk in the sea and the Moon got up. There was a fine breeze from off shore, and a heavy sea beat against the ships at anchor and the lonely lighthouse, glistening and shining over the bay. The bells on Staten Island told nine o'clock, and the reverberation sounded far out on the water. It was then very dark and the wind sighed through the shrouds of the Herald as she tore through the water outbound. A miserable wet experience was that of the officers and men on board the boat—the sea ran high and the darkness was intense. Expecting the arrival of the Svetlana, with the Grand Duke on board, Captain Tom Robinson, in charge of the marine department, directed the sailing master of the Herald to proceed

THIRTY MILES TO SEA

and keep careful watch for the frigate. The steam yacht was consequently directed out through phosphorescent waves thumping against the bows, and in the darkness and the gloom of the night the Herald plunged forward. Suddenly and with startling effect, just as orders were about to be given to shut off steam and heave to, the man on the look out uttered a yell and hailed the chief reporter.

"What's the matter forward?" was shouted in reply.

"Red light to port; looks like a steamer, sir," was the immediate response.

"Can you make her out?"

"She's a man-of-war, sir. Luff, or be jingo we'll run her down."

All hands, including the cook, came on deck immediately and a hearty cheer sounded over the waters.

A SLEEPY MARINE REPORTER

waking up as the cheer reverberated over the bay and was answered with a shout from the frigate, ran up singing in a terribly bass voice this nautical verse:—

There's a lofty frigate to windward
And another upon our lee,
As we sail along the coast of High Barbary.
Blow high! blow low! for so sailed we
As we cruise along the coast of High Barbary.

The lights of the "lofty frigate" grew brighter and brighter as the Herald bounced over and through the waves; and soon the beaming eyes of the ship of Alexis threw a lurid glare on the deck of the steamer.

"Luff!" exclaimed the skipper, and in a twinkling the dark hull of the frigate rushed past, her tall spars pointing toward the cleared sky overhead, and the Herald rounded to and followed after. The sea was too heavy for the saucy little yacht to board. Every eye was turned on the dark mass now forging ahead through the troubled water.

Then, from the deck of the Herald, puffing up under the quarter of the lofty frigate, was uttered a loud and peremptory challenge:—

"What ship is that?"

"The Russian frigate Svetlana," was thundered through a speaking trumpet in reply.

"Are all well on board?" then was asked.

"All well," answered the lieutenant of the watch; "what vessel is that?"

"The steam yacht Herald."

"Is the Grand Duke Alexis on board?"

"He is."

"The Herald congratulates him; the rest of the fleet have arrived—all well."

A loud cheer broke from the crew of the Svetlana, and officers and sailors crowded on the quarters, huzzaing for the Herald.

The Herald yacht slowly followed up the frigate, her officers conversing as they moved along, and when all necessary information had been obtained put on full steam and headed for New York.

THE RUN UP WAS EXPEDITIOUS.

Starting at half-past eleven from the lightship the yacht reached the Battery at half-past one A. M. The despatch having been prepared on board in the meanwhile a carriage was procured and a special messenger was sent to the office. The carriage was frequently hailed by policemen and runners from the sleepy metropolitan newspapers, but of course the messenger had no