WASHINGTON.

Republican Leaders in Search of a Platform.

JEFF DAVIS AS A NATIONAL ISSUE.

Alarm Cries of Partisan Journals and the Real Situation.

A REVOLUTION NOT IMMINFNT.

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

WASHINGTON, March 7, 1879.

THE JEFF DAVIS DEBATE IN THE SENATE—REPUBLICAN SENATORS SHOWING TO POOR ADVANTAGE—FACTS THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN SUBSTITUTED FOR DENUNCIATION.

The republican party here in Washington is united, undoubtedly, but it is so anxiously looking about for some subject to be united on that it has jumped with quite ludicrous eagerness at poor Jefferson Davis as the more available platform. The debate in the Senate on excluding his name from the list of pensioners for services rendered in the Mexican war is boasted of here by the extreme republicans as an immense victory and as almost in itself insuring the election of a republican President next year. It should be understood that General Shields' amendment to the Arrears of Pensions bill was adopted by a vote of 36 to 22, eight republican Senators voting with the majority and two democrats, Messrs. Kernan and Randolph, in the negative. If the eight republicans had voted against it it must have failed in the Senate, and it was not passed by a party vote at all. Then came Mr. Hoar's amendment to exclude Jefferson Davis, the debate on which has been made the occasion of so much partisan noise. It must be said that, contrary to the boasts sent out from here to partisan journals, the republicans did not figure well in this discussion. They vilified Davis as the head of a great treason, and they did so knowing that Davis' name is peculiarly odious to Northern men. They compelled Southern Senators to reply, and their replies were in the main moderate, and in some cases very effective. General Shields pertinently remarked that to single out Mr. Davis for exclusion was to elevate and distinguish him, and was therefore unwise. Mr. Lamar caused a letter from Mr. Davis to be read, in which he asked that, in case a motion to exclude him should be offered, his friends should not oppose it, as he needed no pension and did not want to stand in the way of many poor men who did. For the rest, the Southern Senators, being men and not dogs, ranged themselves on the side of Davis. They would be poor creatures if they had done less, for they were engaged in the same rebellion with him, had been guilty with him and could hardly remain silent when he was attacked. They can never understand what the republican Senators so well know and so meanly take advantage of that Jefferson Davis is the object of a peculiar bitter and lasting dislike to Northern people. But even if they did know this they were compelled as men to speak when they heard him denounced on the other side. When they spoke they naturally went to some lengths in their eulogy as the others had gone in their denunciation, and they gave the republicans a fair opportunity which they entirely failed to avail themselves of.

The Southern men spoke of Davis as a statesman and an able man, and it is surprising that some republican Senator had not the wit, on this, to substitute truth for denunciation and to give an accurate character of Davis. The truth about him is that he was in Mexico a gallant soldier; that he was, with the exception of Mr. Calhoun, the ablest and most enlightened Secretary of War the country ever had previous to the rebellion; but that as a statesman, in any true or large sense, he was always, and remains, an utter and pitiful failure, and so far as statesmanship goes all the Southern men who were with him originators of the rebellion must fall with him. The attempt to dissolve the Union, and the intention to do so in the interest of slavery, was as unstatesmanlike and blundering a proceeding as history records, because it is the part of a statesman to measure forces, to foresee difficulties, to provide against the ruinous loss of the people he assumes to rule and guide, and to lay his plans in a such way that they will be made happy and not miserable.

If the republican Senators had had in their minds anything higher than a desire to stir up bad blood and sectional hostility this is what they might very well have said. And they would have found a very large part of the Southern whites heartily agreeing with them, for Mr. Davis is disliked almost as generally in the South as in the North.

ALARMING REPORTS OF PARTISAN JOURNALS CONTRASTED WITH THE REAL SITUATION OF AFFAIRS.

Considering the alarming nature of the reports which have been sent from here to the various partisan newspapers within the last few days, it seems advisable to assure the readers of the HERALD that in point of fact everything is very quiet and even dull here in Washington. The rival candidates for the Speakership are conducting themselves like gentlemen; the President sleeps in his bed every night unvexed by dreams of war; neither the democratic nor the republican party contemplates a pronunciamento or revolution; the democratic leaders, so far from standing up infuriated on their hind legs yelling defiance, have mostly gone home with their wives and children; the President, so far from having blood in his eyes, is as amiable and hopeful as ever; the honorable Mr. Chandler remains true to the republican party, but is on friendly terms with most of his democratic colleagues; a close scrutiny of the hotels and other public places warrants the confident assertion that nobody of either party is hatching treason; there is no reason to believe that the White House and Congress are going to open fire on each other on the 18th of March. In fact, all is quiet on the Potomac, and the occasional sputter of noise, magnified reports of which are telegraphed North, comes altogether from the party bummers on each side, who have slim pickings just now, and dislike nothing so much as quiet.

THE NEW SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—REASONS FOR CARE IN THE SELECTION.

When the democratic Senators come to select the chairmen of committees in the Senate it is to be hoped that they will exercise proper care. It is well known that all Senators are honorable men, but it is a fact that the Senate Committee on Appropriations inserted in the Sundry Civil bill, when it came over from the House the other day, several amendments of a kind which are commonly called jobs, and they were jobs of the worst kind, so bad that they were struck out as soon as they were reported to the Senate. Now, though the Senate Appropriations Committee had at that time a republican chairman and a majority of republican members, it is a matter of common rumor here that some of the democratic members of the committee aided in inserting these jobs in the bill. It was a dangerous trick which might have succeeded, for the bill and its amendments were acted on by the Senate at night, very near the close of the session, and there was at least a possibility that these jobs stuck on in committee might slip through unnoticed. It is therefore reasonable to ask that the democratic Senators, in selecting a chairman and members for the new Appropriations Committee, will use such precautions as shall prevent the recurrence, while they control the Senate, of so unpleasant an incident.

GENERAL WASHINGTON DESPATCHES.

WASHINGTON, March 7, 1879.

THE ORGANIZATION OF SENATE AND HOUSE.

The democratic Senators will hold a caucus the day after the meeting of the extra session to take action on the reorganization of the Senate and the constitution of the various standing committees.

Mr. A. M. Waddell, of North Carolina, is now the only candidate for Secretary of the Senate from that State, as Mr. Shober, who was also a candidate, has withdrawn. The Senators from North Carolina, the Legislature and the entire Congressional delegation are in favor of the election of Mr. Waddell, and his friends assert he will have a considerable support outside of the State.

The democratic members of the House of Representatives will hold their caucus either on the 15th or the 17th inst., to select candidates for office.

The republicans and greenbackers will also have separate consultations.

THE NATIONAL BOARD OF HEALTH.

At the Cabinet council this afternoon the appointment of the members of the National Board of Health, under the bill passed during the closing hours of Congress, was considered. The bill provides that the Board shall consist, respectively, of one member representing the Treasury Department, one the Navy Department, one the War Department and one the Department of Justice, and seven to be appointed by the President. It was decided that Surgeon General Woodworth, of the Marine Hospital service, should be the representative of the Treasury Department; Medical Director Francis M. Gunnell, of the Navy Department; Solicitor General Phillips, of the Department of Justice, and Assistant Surgeon John S. Billings, of the War Department.

IMMIGRATION INTO THE UNITED STATES.

The Chief of the Bureau of Statistics furnishes the following summary of the official returns of immigration into the United States:—

During the calendar year 1878 there arrived at the several ports of the United States 209,254 passengers, of whom 153,207 were immigrants. During the calendar year 1877 the total arrival of passengers was 190,361, of whom 130,503 were immigrants, showing an increase of 22,704 in the number of immigrants, or about seventeen per cent.

THE ALASKA TROUBLES.

DETAILS OF THE RECENT INDIAN OUTBREAK—THE APPEAL FOR PROTECTION TO A BRITISH MAN-OF-WAR—NECESSITY FOR SOME ACTION BY THE GOVERNMENT.

WASHINGTON, March 7, 1879.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

I have received the following letter from Victoria, containing interesting details concerning the Indian troubles in Alaska, which I forward you for the benefit of your readers:—

VICTORIA, B. C., Feb. 19, 1879.

WILLIAM GOUVERNEUR MORRIS, Washington, D. C.:—

SIR—Knowing the great interest you feel in Alaska affairs I have thought a statement from me on the present difficulties in that locality would be acceptable. You are, no doubt, already informed by telegraph of the principal facts, but the details may better enlighten you.

We arrived in Sitka on the steamer California the 8th of February, and found the citizens there under arms, momentarily expecting a raid by the Indians. It appears that a party of the savages, belonging, I believe, to the Kake tribe, on the day previous had attempted it, and in an endeavor on the part of some of the peaceable chiefs to prevent actual hostilities a fight had occurred among themselves which resulted in the killing and wounding of some of the party. The Indians then threatened to revenge these deaths on the whites, their creed requiring the blood of some white man as compensation, no matter how indirectly the whites might have been the cause of the Indians' death.

This is the latest *casus belli* which has been raised by the Indians, although, as you well know, they have for some months past been very insolent and threatening, committing many acts of aggression with comparative impunity, and even murdered one white man at the Hot Springs. Two of the Indians have been arrested and sent down by the Collector, Colonel Ball, on the steamer California to Portland, but in the absence of evidence I fear no good can result from the arrest.

THE APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE.

It was feared that this would add fuel to the flame, and the uncertainty of the fate of these Indians would still further stir up the hostile feeling and increase the probability of trouble and render the need for assistance more urgent; hence the appeal from the citizens of Sitka to the captain of a British ship-of-war for relief. This appeal was brought down by the California and delivered on the 15th of February to Captain Holmes à Court, of Her Majesty's ship Osprey, who immediately repaired to the Consulate and signified his readiness to go to Sitka on an official request. This request was made, I believe, after communicating with the department at Washington, it appearing by a communication from Collector Webster that no United States vessel could be sent at so short notice as the case seemed to require, and on the 18th, at noon, the Osprey sailed with a competent pilot.

It is generally understood that she will remain until relieved by a vessel of the United States. The appeal was not signed by Colonel Ball, the Collector, as I believe he depended on the arrival of a cutter from Port Townsend. I gathered, in conversation with many of the citizens, that they felt able to stand a siege until the arrival of assistance, but considered the position critical. Some women and children came out on the California.

NEGLECT OF THE GOVERNMENT.

This, then, seems the culmination of the Indian difficulties in that district, which has been foreseen for some time past by those acquainted, like yourself, with the state of affairs in Alaska, and is the natural result of the neglect on the part of the government to afford the people in that part of the Territory the same protection which is accorded specially to that portion lying further to the westward, where the interests of the Alaska Commercial Company lie; not that I, by any means, join in the (at present) popular outcry that that corporation is the cause of all Alaska difficulties. On the contrary, a great deal of claptrap and buncombe appears in the press.

I, with others whose interests lie in Alaska, simply ask what we are entitled to—that protection for life and property which is or ought to be the aim of all good government, but which in this case seems singularly overlooked.

Late developments show a very prosperous future for the Territory. Some very excellent ledges of gold and silver have been discovered about the Tongass country, which increase the necessity for a civil government there. Respectfully yours,

WILLIAM E. GEORGE, Alaska Coast Pilot.

The writer of this letter, Captain George, is the pilot of the mail steamship California, which makes monthly trips from Portland, Oregon, to Sitka. He is a reputable man and his statements can be relied on. He has been on the Northwest coast for years; is intimately acquainted with the Indian tribes, their habits and customs. He married the daughter of the Russian Bishop of Kodeak Island, and has been in the employ of the Hudson Bay Company, and is authority upon this subject.

NEGLECT OF CONGRESS.

Congress has adjourned without doing anything toward establishing a form of government for this abandoned and unhappy country. The Senate Committee on Appropriations refused to insert in the Sundry Civil bill the item of $175,000 for the construction of a new steamer for special service in Alaskan waters, notwithstanding that Senator Mitchell appeared before the committee and made a verbal argument in support thereof, showing the absolute necessity for such a vessel, and reading also a strong letter from Secretary Sherman urging the appropriation and stating that he had not a single vessel in the revenue marine suitable and available for this service.

Unfavorable criticism upon my part of Congressional action might be misconstrued, and therefore I must patiently await the result which the production of additional light upon this subject may have upon the minds of our lawgivers at the approaching extra session. Very respectfully yours,

WM. GOUVERNEUR MORRIS, Special Agent.

PATRICK'S DAY PARADE.

The convention of Irish societies met last evening at Academy Hall, in Third avenue, near Twenty-third street, pursuant to adjournment, to perfect the arrangements for the annual St. Patrick's Day parade. Mr. Peter McGowan, president of the convention, occupied the chair. The first business before the meeting was the report of the committee appointed to confer with the Police Commissioners, the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen as to the route of the procession and the reception by the authorities. The committee, through Mr. Patrick Gibney, the chairman, reported that they had been received with every courtesy by the Police Commissioners and the Mayor. They were instructed to call upon the Superintendent in regard to the route of the procession, and he assured them that the route selected met his approval, and would, in all probability, be approved by the Board of Commissioners at their meeting next Tuesday. The question of marshals' aids was then brought up and the Grand Marshal, Mr. James Haggerty, informed the meeting that he would have an advertisement inserted in the evening papers as to time and place for a meeting of the candidates who should be proposed as aids of the different divisions intending to participate in the parade.

Some discussion followed and the convention adjourned to Friday next, 14th inst.

FLOATING IN THE CANAL.

The body of a young and neatly attired woman was yesterday found floating in the Morris Canal, near the Linden avenue bridge, Greenville, N. J. The body had apparently been in the water all winter.

ORGANIZED PERJURERS.

Men Banded Together to Swear Away Life and Property.

BLACKMAILING AS AN ART.

Innocent Citizens Arrested on Trumped Up Charges.

Perjury in the minor civil and criminal courts has long been a subject of comment, but the cases that have been prosecuted have been exceedingly few compared with the frequency and boldness of the crime. That there is in existence on the east side of the city a club whose object is the giving of evidence on occasion for a money consideration will prove startling information to many, but not so to the police authorities or the criminal prosecuting officers of the city.

DEVELOPMENTS IN A POLICE COURT.

The existence of such an organization as that referred to was developed in a hearing had before Justice Murray at Essex Market Police Court on Thursday. The case was that of an alleged assault preferred by one Samuel Edgart, of No. 32 Orchard street, against Henry M. Greenberg, a merchant, doing business at Nos. 212 and 214 Church street. The assault was alleged to have been committed at a Jewish synagogue at No. 32 Orchard street. Edgart swore that he was kicked to insensibility by the accused, and a part of his testimony was corroborated by three Polish Hebrews, named Samuel Bernstein, Solomon Geist and Jacob Fenpenflinger. On his cross-examination Edgart was compelled to reluctantly acknowledge that he had had Greenberg arrested on six different occasions; and further, that he (Edgart) belongs to a club that meets in a saloon in Orchard street, near Rivington, the members of which are leagued together to "put up jobs," as the slang phrase goes, and procure mock witnesses whenever called upon. One of the witnesses (Fenpenflinger), when called to the stand, turned around as if to signalize to his confederates, but Justice Murray, anticipating the character of the witness and his testimony, had ordered their removal from the court room. Then it was developed that the witness had a civil suit against a railroad company and that Edgart and Bernstein were among his witnesses.

A CONSPIRACY PROVED.

On the defence it was shown that Mr. Greenberg was in the synagogue when Edgart thrust his head within the door, and was ordered away by the former. No assault was committed or even attempted. This was most positively testified to by three or four persons who were in the synagogue as well as by the accused. Mr. Aaron Noah, of No. 218 East Broadway, a professor of the Hebrew language, testified to his knowledge of Edgart's bad character generally, and to the fact that he belonged to a club composed of twenty-five members, who are sworn to assist each other as witnesses in any case whatever. Morris Grossman testified that Edgart had boasted to him that he belonged to a club that could send any man to prison. Justice Murray ordered Mr. Greenberg's honorable acquittal, and told Edgart that his proper place was in the State Prison.

WHAT JUSTICE MURRAY SAYS.

In investigating this subject yesterday a HERALD reporter called upon Justice Murray, who said:—"This man Edgart came here and swore out a warrant for Mr. Greenberg's arrest. The first examination took place on Wednesday. When the accused was arraigned Edgart swore that he was so badly injured by Greenberg that he had to be attended by two physicians, with great danger of being crippled for life, and that these injuries were inflicted at the synagogue. Greenberg denied the assault. He swore that Edgart came there, and, knowing the character of the man, he ordered him away, saying that he had no business in such a place. He was positive that Edgart only thrust his head within the door, and that he (Greenberg) did not touch him. Adam Noah gave Edgart a very bad character. He said that he belonged to a club of twenty-five men who were banded together to swear in courts of justice, to protect each other and to swear for each other in any case where money was at hazard. Then I adjourned the case to Thursday, so as to get at the bottom of the matter."

DAMAGING CONTRADICTIONS.

"When the matter came up on that day I told the witnesses to stand up, and the sergeant took them to another room. Edgart swore that the assault was just outside of the door of the synagogue, and that it was of the most aggravated character; that two witnesses carried him down stairs, and that it occurred on the 24th of February. The next witness swore that it occurred on the 3d of March, and as he did so he looked around so as that the other witnesses might hear him and note the date testified to, but my precautions had removed them beyond sight and hearing. In his testimony Edgart said he belonged to the perjury club, and two of his witnesses admitted their membership in the same. None of his witnesses, however, claim that they saw the assault. The accused (Greenberg) testified that Edgart only opened the door of the synagogue, and when told to go away Edgart threatened to be revenged. This was the whole of the occurrence, according to Mr. Greenberg. No assault was shown in a thorough cross-examination of all the witnesses who were called to the stand. Three or four persons were in the church at the time, who corroborated Greenberg."

THE CLUB'S BOAST.

Mr. Noah testified that Edgart had introduced himself to him by means of a manufactured story, and that he had heard Edgart boast that he belonged to a club that could make or unmake any man in New York. Moreover, that he (Edgart) could go into court and swear any man into or out of trouble, no matter what its nature might be. Another one told me that he had been asked to join the same club. On one occasion Edgart was in a street car with this person, when Edgart threw himself down and exclaimed, "I want you to swear that my leg has been broken!" The man refused to swear to the lie. Edgart was after damages. He said, "If you don't I shall have you arrested." He kept his word and had the man arrested and brought before Civil Justice Dinkle for some alleged irregularity in a note or money transaction. When on the stand Edgart swore that he had never been in Court, but it was shown that he had had several persons brought up in the Marine Court on orders of arrest. In these cases damages were sought to be obtained.

A PREVALENT CRIME.

"There is, no doubt," he continued, "an immense amount of false swearing among this class of people. I recognize their faces in court every day. In this Edgart matter I thought the best way would be to ventilate the whole subject, so as to get at the bottom of what I believe is a prevalent crime. Had I told Edgart he would have had fifty witnesses to swear as he wished. That's my experience in dealing with this class. They are mostly natives of Poland. They have a system of telegraphing their thoughts or evidence by movements of the lips and fingers and even by the shrugging of shoulders, and these signs seem to be generally understood."

PROFESSOR NOAH'S STORY.

At No. 218 East Broadway, the reporter found Mr. Nathan Noah. He is a most respectable and venerable looking gentleman, and told his story with great caution. He said:—"I am a professor. I used to dine at No. 32 Essex street. A man named Samuel Edgart made my acquaintance there by telling me that he came from Godiner, in Russo-Poland, which is my native place. He said he belonged to one of the best families in the place and is a son-in-law of my schoolmate. He answered me that he was a cloth cutter and made $125 a month. I saw him repeatedly and noticed that he was not at work. This first aroused my suspicions. On one occasion he said he had lent a Mr. Levy $500 and took a note. That note he deposited with Mr. Greenberg for safe keeping. Greenberg, he said, gave the note back to Levy. I asked him what he was going to do about it. He said he did not want to go to court, but would go before a rabbi, and asked me to be one of the arbitrators. After some persuasion I agreed.

BLACKMAIL.

"One night the arbitrators met at Rabbi Asch's house in Suffolk street. We did nothing that night and adjourned for two days. Then Edgart told me that if I could get $50 from Greenberg he would be satisfied. That made me more suspicious of him. When Rabbi Asch asked me how I came to know Edgart, the Rabbi's manner made me feel that I was in bad company and I withdrew from the case. A few days later a poor tailor named Morris Grossman came to me and told me that Edgart had blackmailed him out of $8 and $15 respectively by means of false arrests. He wanted to arrest him again, and I promised to see Edgart about it at No. 32 Essex street. Edgart said he had to arrest that man because he (Edgart) had sued the Second Avenue Railroad Company for $2,200 damages; that Grossman knew all about the case and he was sure to be a witness against him. Therefore, he would cause his arrest several times more, so that his evidence would have no weight in court. Edgart by this means would show that Grossman was an enemy of his. Did you every know such roguery?"

WITNESSES PLENTY.

Resuming his conversation, Mr. Noah said:—"I asked Edgart how he could get witnesses when he had no case. He replied that it made no difference; he could get all the witnesses he wanted in any case. I asked him how he had arrested Greenberg so many times. He said he could cause his arrest at any time, as he could get all the witnesses he wanted from his club when he desired who would swear that Greenberg was going to leave the country. This is the way I got to be dragged into this disagreeable business. It seems to me that Edgart is the leader of an organized gang of perjurers. He is not from my place; neither is he the son-in-law of my schoolmate, as he represented himself to be. Mr. Nathan Solomon, who lives in Essex street, near Hester street, told me that the man named Abraham Freeman, who was recently sent to State Prison for life for arson, was once one of the willing witnesses in one of Edgart's cases. I have heard that Edgart was under arrest in Poland for the same offences as those he is charged with here."

KNOWN TO THE POLICE.

Superintendent Walling told the reporter that he had never heard of this suit, but that he had heard a great deal about perjury in arson cases when investigated in the Fire Marshal's office as well as when tried in court. He added:—"I have heard that there is a regular organization among them over on the east side, banded to swear each other out. I assisted the District Attorney a great deal in ascertaining about the character of some of the witnesses who were called to prove an alibi in the case of the incendiaries Freeman and Bernstein, recently convicted and sent up for life. Assistant District Attorney Rollins gave me a list of names, and the information I then got I believe went far toward securing the conviction of those persons. My investigations then satisfied me that there is a regular organization among these people to furnish evidence to order."

CHARGED WITH PERJURY.

Police Justice Walsh, Brooklyn, yesterday committed Andrew Butcher to the Raymond Street Jail on the charge of perjury preferred against him by Wallace P. Groom. The plaintiff, it will be remembered, instituted suit in the Supreme Court against Peter Cooper for libel, and Mr. Butcher was a witness for the philanthropist during the trial, which was held before Judge Pratt. Butcher swore that Mr. Groom did not properly distribute the pamphlets which had been gotten up in the interests of the greenback party and paid for by Mr. Cooper. Justice Walsh set down the examination of the case for Wednesday next.

ANOTHER GOOD MAN GONE WRONG.

A PHILADELPHIA TAX RECEIVER RUNS AWAY—"HE BORE A GOOD REPUTATION AND WAS HIGHLY RESPECTED" OF COURSE.

PHILADELPHIA, March 7, 1879.

Another trusted official is to be added to the list of good men "gone wrong." This time it is Mr. Benjamin Shallcross, Receiver of Taxes for the Twenty-third ward of Philadelphia. Like all his illustrious predecessors, Mr. Shallcross was widely known and respected. He was of good family, had always borne an excellent reputation, and, in fact, in the good old times would have been the last man suspected of being a deliberate thief. In the light of recent experience his respectable antecedents should not have shielded him from scrutiny in his financial dealings with the city; but they did, nevertheless, so that now the community is suddenly shocked with the intelligence that Mr. Shallcross is a defaulter in a large amount. There are circumstances which make it appear that the stealing has been going on for years and that Shallcross has enjoyed a very comfortable and cosey little steal, owing to the immunity from investigation which this public official, fortunately for him, has always enjoyed.

A LAW UNTO HIMSELF.

The Twenty-third ward of Philadelphia is a suburban village called Frankford. When the Philadelphia city government was given control of all the towns in Philadelphia county Frankford became a part of the incorporated city, like many other outlying towns and villages. Mr. Albert C. Roberts is the Receiver of Taxes for Philadelphia, but it appears that under a stupid act of the Legislature his jurisdiction does not include the Twenty-third ward, and an entirely independent Receiver of Taxes is provided for that district.

SHIFTING THE RESPONSIBILITY.

Said Mr. Roberts, in explaining his ignorance and innocence of any complicity with the accused official:—"Although I appointed this man I am in no way responsible for his official conduct. The law takes away all his accountability to me. I suggested the passage of a law placing the position directly under my control, and then it would cost less money and there would be a more thorough check upon the official. I urged this upon members of the Legislature as well as Councils, but nothing has been done." Under the law Mr. Shallcross held an independent office. An act of the Legislature of May 3, 1860, authorizes the Tax Receiver to nominate a receiver for the Twenty-third ward. Councils are required to confirm the appointment and the official is responsible only to the city. He simply sends the Tax Receiver his accounts, which no one audits, and the delinquent list goes into the proper official's hands.

NOBODY TO BLAME.

"I have not the power even to remove, which can only be done by due process of law. His securities do not even come here. They are entered in the City Solicitor's office, and the city holds the official responsible. Officially I know nothing of Mr. Shallcross' deficiencies. I did not reappoint him, in consequence of the rumors which were in circulation affecting his integrity."

NEGLIGENT CITY GOVERNMENT.

On the 1st of March the term of Mr. Shallcross as Receiver of Taxes for the Twenty-third ward expired. He was originally appointed to his office by Receiver Smith, Mr. Roberts' predecessor, six years ago, and his term expired on the 1st inst. For a long time past rumors have been current in Frankford that something was wrong with Shallcross' accounts, and two weeks ago he disappeared, having gone, it is said, to Virginia. The full history of the case shows a most astonishing carelessness on the part of the City Council, as it appears that their attention was called to Shallcross' irregularities about two years ago. As far back as that Mr. Frederick K. Womrath, himself a Common Councilman from the Twenty-third ward, called official attention to the need of investigating the receiver's accounts, but after a very discouraging experience of red tape, and being referred from one to the other officer of the city government, he gave up his attempt to secure justice in disgust. Mr. Womrath says that on the 12th of December, 1876, he paid to Shallcross $1,552 10 for his taxes. In the January following he was astonished to learn that he had been returned as a delinquent. He followed the matter up, and Mr. Shallcross, hearing that he was doing so, called upon him, and assured him that "it was all a mistake, and he was sorry for it," asking him at the same time to overlook it. He was not disposed to do this, because, he said, he had paid the taxes by check, and the check had been paid into the bank on the 18th or 20th of December by Mr. Shallcross. Hearing from time to time complaints from his neighbors and others, he says that he decided that the entire matter should be thoroughly investigated by City Councils, and to that end he called on Mr. Albert C. Roberts, Receiver of Taxes for the city, and acquainted him with the state of affairs. As Mr. Roberts did not seem disposed to take any steps in that direction, he told Mr. Joseph L. Caven, the President of the Common Council, that he intended calling for a committee of investigation. Mr. Caven acquiesced in his views, and Mr. Womrath at once set about securing the proper evidence to be laid before the committee when it should be appointed. He was, however, met at the outset with a general reluctance on the part of the property owners to appear as witnesses; and being unable at the time to gain the consent of more than one or two of them to testify before the committee, he was compelled to let the matter drop for a while.

Not long since a paragraph appeared in the Frankford *Dispatch* referring to the public dissatisfaction regarding Receiver Shallcross, and since that time Mr. Shallcross has not been seen.

THE AMOUNT STOLEN.

The full amount of money involved cannot be known until all the tax payers who gave money to Shallcross have presented their receipts. Shallcross' successor will at once begin an examination. The peculations are said to have been carried on since 1873. A gentleman who has means of knowing fixes the amount stolen at $25,000. He is also prepared to prove that where the property owners were unable to compute properly the percentage which they should pay, that Shallcross charged them a great deal more than the legal rate and pocketed the difference. He also knows instances, when no official valuation had been made of properties, that Shallcross valued them himself and put the valuation and interest into his own pocket. In one case he did so in the presence of a second party, remarking as he slapped his pocket, "That's all my own, every cent of it." This gentleman said, in conclusion, Mr. Albert C. Roberts, the Receiver of Taxes for the city, and Mr. Thomas J. Smith, whom he succeeded in that office, both knew all about this thing for years, for I called upon them and told them all about it."

According to the act of Assembly the Receiver of the Twenty-third ward is required to enter security in the sum of $10,000. Shallcross' bondsmen are James Walters and George Shallcross, a relative of the missing official. These gentlemen are good for the amount of their bonds, but the city will lose all beyond the $10,000 probably.

ROWING.

MEETING OF THE STUDENTS OF THE CORNELL UNIVERSITY—EIGHTS AND FOURS FOR THE REGATTA OF THE AMERICAN HENLEY.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

ITHACA, N. Y., March 7, 1879.

At a meeting of all the students of Cornell University here to-night it was almost unanimously resolved that the Cornell Navy directors be authorized to make arrangements for the entry of an eight-oared freshman crew and a four-oared university crew at the regatta of the American Henley, to be rowed on Saratoga Lake next summer.

There were a few supporters of the proposition to send a four-oared crew to the English Henley regatta, but they gave way to the project that was finally adopted.

The University gymnasium has been lately refitted, and the competitors for places in the crews will be put to work immediately. There was a strong sentiment expressed in favor of the hope that Columbia will also enter crews for each race in which Cornell will be represented.

"ALWAYS WITH YOU."

The HERALD has received from "Gratitude, M. D.," $2 for No. 609 East Thirteenth street and $2 for Mary McLaughlin, No. 17 Monroe street.

THE ZULU MASSACRE.

THE DISASTER OF ISANDULA—GRAPHIC DESCRIPTION OF THE DISASTER—DEAD ZULUS CAST ON THE BRITISH BAYONETS.

[From the London Daily News.]

The following detailed account of the terrible disaster at Isandula is telegraphed from Madeira:—"The day before the action took place Colonel Glyn, in command of the third column, acting under the direct orders of Lord Chelmsford, sent away the advance guard under the command of Major Dartnall, composed of a detachment of carbineers, the Natal mounted police, Lonsdale's native contingent and others. This advanced guard sent to say it was engaged with the Zulus. Lord Chelmsford himself and Colonel Glyn pushed forward the main force, consisting of seven companies of the 2-24th, under Lieutenant Colonel Degacher, Lonsdale's native contingent, under Major Black, 2-24th and other troops, leaving behind as rear guard five companies of the 1-24th, under Lieutenant Colonel Pulleine, one company of the 2-24th, under Lieutenant Pope, and a portion of the First regiment of the Natal native contingent, under Lieutenant Colonel Durnford, with the following cavalry:—About thirty naval carbineers, the Buffalo Border Guard, and about twenty-five Newcastle mounted riflemen. In addition, Colonel Durnford had Sikali's Horse and two guns, under Captain Russell, Royal artillery. There were a few artillerymen. The Army Hospital Corps, the Commissariat, with a column of Lord Chelmsford's, moved forward with the main body either on the evening of the 21st or the morning of the 22d. The rear guard had finished its usual morning march and outspanned when Zulu skirmishers were observed surrounding the hills. These skirmishers advanced toward the camp, keeping up a desultory fire. The camp was pitched in a broken country in a sort of valley, with distant surrounding hills. Colonel Pulleine sent skirmishers, who responded to the fire of the Zulus. It seems that the number of Zulus was not estimated, it being considered a slight demonstration of a few men. As the enemy's scouts were soon joined by bodies of considerable strength Colonel Pulleine's skirmishers were recalled, and the camp hastily put upon the defensive. The Zulu army then came on rapidly in regular battalions, eight deep, keeping up a heavy steady fire, until well within assegai distance. They then ceased their fire and hurled assegais. Our men kept up a very steady, telling fire, and great numbers of the enemy dropped, but without checking their progress. The places of the men who fell were constantly filled by comrades."

THE AMMUNITION WAGONS CAPTURED.

While this attack was going on in the rear a double flank movement was executed, by which the horns of the Zulu army surrounded the camp. The disadvantage of the wagons not being packed in laager was now evident, and it led to the disaster. Our men had emptied their pouches and found it impossible to replenish them, as the Zulus had obtained possession of the ammunition wagons. The affair then became one of absolute butchery. Our officers and men were assegaied as they stood. They made no charges. The Zulu host came down with the weight of its battalions and literally crushed the small body, which could only defend itself with the bayonet, and very soon it had not even room to use that. The Zulus picked up the dead bodies of their comrades and hurled them on the bayonet points of our soldiers, thus simply beating down all defence. The work of destruction was complete. Within two hours from the time the Zulu skirmishers were seen there was not a living white man in the camp. The ammunition, the guns, the commissariat supplies, the wagons, the oxen, all the material of the column, fell into the hands of the enemy. Fortunately two cannons were spiked by Captain Smith, Royal Artillery, who was assegaied while in the act of spiking all the ammunition and some wagons, and destroyed whatever was left behind.

The Zulu army was completely organized. It advanced, first throwing out skirmishers; then, as the battalions came down in mass, used their rifles while at long range with considerable effect. When near enough to use their own more familiar weapon, the assegai, they threw in two or three showers. All this time they were advancing steadily and rapidly, and the stabbing assegai was soon at work. The impression in Natal is that this engagement on the part of the Zulus is not attributable to generalship, but that the army of invasion was making for Natal and accidentally came across the rear guard of Colonel Glynn's column. Our troops were allowed to cross the river at various points. Colonel Glynn's main body was enticed by a feint advance away from its material. Then the main body of the enemy, supposed to be under Sirayo, the favorite Induna of Cetewayo, swept down on the baggage guard. Our native allies fought bravely, too, and if the camp had been formed in laager, and our men could have been furnished with the ammunition with which the camp was so generously supplied, it would have given a different account of the enemy. Young saw nothing of barbarities. The way in which the men were surrounded and crushed down by weight of numbers proves that utter annihilation took place, but it is hoped that the horrible stories in circulation have no foundation in fact.

THE HORRORS OF THE SCENE.

All that are left of the Twenty-fourth regiment are Captain Harrison's company, stationed at St. John's River; Captain Upchers and Captain Rainforth, who were at that time on their march to join their battalion; Major Much and Dr. Hartley, who were invalided a short time before, and Lieutenant Morshead, who was doing staff duty at Pietermaritzburg. The great wonder was that so few men—for there were only about six hundred men in the camp, excluding natives who ran, and not including Colonel Durnford's mounted men, under Captain Barton, who did fight well—were able in the open, and with no protection of cover, to keep off for four or five hours the large numbers of Kafirs that must have attacked them. The line of Zulus which came down the hills to the left was nearly three miles long, and must have consisted of over fifteen thousand men, while a body of over five thousand remained on the top as a reserve and took no part in the action, but simply drove off the captured cattle, wagons and plunder. When these men moved they took most of their dead bodies with them in our wagons, mixed with the débris of the commissariat wagons, the contents of which—flour, sugar, tea, biscuits, mealies, oats, &c.—were scattered about and wasted in pure wantonness. On the ground there were also dead horses shot in every position, oxen mutilated, mules stabbed, while lying thick upon the ground in clumps were the bodies of the white men, with only their boots and shirts on, or perhaps an old pair of trousers, or part of their coats, with just enough showing to indicate to which branch they belonged. In many cases they lay with sixty or seventy rounds of empty cartridges alongside them, showing they had only died after doing their duty.

THE ASTLEY BELT CONTEST.

At eleven o'clock yesterday morning Mr. Charles H. Haswell, engineer and surveyor, visited Gilmore's Garden and measured the track over which O'Leary, Rowell, Harriman and Ennis will tramp next week for the Astley belt. Mr. G. W. Atkinson, of London, and two or three more of the corps of judges selected to look after matters during the competition were present. After giving full directions to the carpenter engaged to place the inside border frame in position Mr. Haswell said that the measurement would be verified in presence of all the judges so soon as the track was built, when he would hand Mr. Kelly, the business manager, his certificate regarding the length, which he found to be exactly one-eighth of a mile. The competitors are much pleased with the work in progress on the track, and with the precautions that are being taken to secure them from annoyance during the contest. This is to be secured by means of a stout railing placed inside the columns in such a way that the spectators who will be on the floor cannot possibly be near enough to trouble them, even if such a thing was contemplated. Fair play is only asked by the friends of the four men, and all who know the temper of a New York audience are positive that this will be given them. The cottages for the competitors will be erected to-day. When the four buildings are in position a drawing for choice will take place.

Rowell completed his hard work yesterday morning at the Garden, appearing for the first time in his track costume. This was of blue trunks, white shirt and drawers and red and blue cap. He will now rest, excepting, of course, the daily exercise required to keep his muscles from stiffening until Sunday night. The English candidate wears a confident expression and smiles at the various guesses, suggestions and anticipations regarding the struggle.

O'Leary passed the morning tramping around town on business, and relieved the monotony of the occasion by making a few small bets that 540 miles will be covered during the week. His health is good.

Ennis took a gentle spin in the Garden in the morning and walked about the city in the afternoon. He is confident and hopeful. "I think," said he to a friend, "that somebody will be surprised about this time next week."

Harriman remained in partial seclusion during the day and had not been at the Garden up to a late hour. His backer, who is a well known citizen of New York, is very sure that Charley will surprise everybody before the competition is over.

During the presence of a small party at the Garden yesterday afternoon, Norman D. Taylor, the runner, covered five miles in 29m. 50s.

PIGEON FLYING CONTEST.

The Homing Pigeon Society, of Troy, have arranged for their annual pigeon flying contests for the championship of the State and the United States. The first contest will take place on May 9. The pigeons will start from St. Johnsville and fly to Troy, a distance of fifty-four miles. A week later the pigeons will be started from Utica and fly to Troy, a distance of eighty-five miles. On May 24 the long distance fly for the State championship gold medal will take place. The birds will be started from Syracuse and their destination will be Troy, distance 130 miles. On June 14 the great race for the championship of the United States will take place. The distance will be from Rochester to Troy, 206½ miles. As this race is open to all it is expected about eighty Antwerps will be entered.—*Albany Argus, March 7.*

THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

What the Energy of Five Men Accomplished for Humanity.

LINKING TWO CONTINENTS.

Preparing for the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Birth of the Project.