bill providing for the taxation of stockholders of banks. The bill, as reported by the Judiciary Committee, radically changed the assessment laws, requiring a statement of personal property to be verified under oath, and exempting fifty per cent. of the banking capital from taxation. After a lengthy discussion, the bill as it came from the Senate, taxing the par value of bank stock, was substituted, and finally agreed to by the House, 96 to 3, Messrs. Bitts, Boyd, Kreidler, Littlejohn, Selden and T. E. Stewart, voting in the negative. The bill now goes to the Governor.

REPORTS COMPLETE.

By Mr. BRANDRETH—To authorize Brooklyn to issue bonds, and raise money for certain purposes; also to create the Metropolitan Fire Department Relief Fund.

By D. P. WOOD—To prescribe powers and duties to canal officers.

Adjourned.

New-York City Tax Levy.

The Tax Levy was announced with the following amendments:

1—Removes restrictions from advertising.
2—Six thousand dollars to Board of Health to clean streets.
3—Strikes out City Chamberlain.
4—Four thousand five hundred and twenty-two dollars for serving subpœnas.
5—Increases City Inspector's contingencies, $30,000.
6—Ten thousand dollars Mount Morris-square.
7—Increase interest on Revenue bonds, $30,000.
8—Increase judgments, $10,000.
9—Strikes out repairing Station-House.
10—Devotes $5,000 of an appropriation to One-hundred-and-twenty-fifth-st.
11—Three thousand dollars for One-hundred-and-fifty-eighth-st.
12—Adds $350 to salaries of Legislative Departments.
13—Adds $5,000 to salaries of Finance Department.
14—Adds $2,350 to salaries of Croton Aqueduct Department.
15—Extends term of Croton Board five years, and increases their salaries.
16—Adds $60,000 to deficiencies for Croton Board.
17—Adds $45,000 to reservoir location for working Eighth-ave.
18—Reserves rights of City against Bedford and sureties.
19—Five thousand dollars to German American Schools.
20—Five thousand dollars to Juvenile Guardian Asylum.
21—Increases errors in name.
22—Five thousand dollars for contesting Metropolitan Fire Department.
23—Five thousand dollars to Blind Mechanics Association.
24—Three thousand dollars to Women's Infirmary.
25—Twenty-six thousand one hundred and three dollars for Daniel McGinnis's claim.
26—One hundred and sixty-eight thousand dollars for Chas. Devlin's claim.
27—Two thousand eight hundred and twenty-five dollars for advertising in The New-York Tribune.
28—Nine thousand five hundred and eighty-six dollars to Theodore F. Jone for claim.
29—Twenty-five thousand dollars for Noah A. Child's claim.
30—Four thousand six hundred and fifty dollars for Wm. H. Adams's claim.
31—Eight thousand two hundred dollars for Assessors.
32—Twelve thousand dollars for taxes, &c., Blind Institution.
33—Eleven thousand dollars for rent under lease with J. E. Davis, for Law Department.
34—Ten thousand dollars for Col. Edward Jardine.
35—Prohibits paying any sum for the claim of Chamberlain, except upon a judicial determination by the Supreme Court.
36—$19,320 deficiencies Valentine's Manual for 1865.
37—$15,000 for Soldiers' Monument.
38—$193,000 increasing pay Metropolitan Fire Department.
39—Directs Mayor to appropriate.
40—Gives repaving and repaving streets to Street Commissioner.
41—Same as above.
42—Strikes out restrictions relative to expenditures, &c., and inserts other matter.
43—Relates to stages.
44—Authorizes renewing of lease of Castle Garden.
45—Renews power of Street Contracting Board.
46—Adjusts number of Councilmen.

And it is hereby provided that the Mayor of the City of New-York shall and he is hereby directed and authorized to license any person or corporation now authorized by law to carry passengers, to establish stage or omnibus lines or routes in said city, and permit passengers to be carried thereon for hire; and provided further that hereafter no omnibus, stage or other conveyance in the City of New-York, shall ask or demand any greater fare than six cents for the conveyance of any passenger at any part of their respective routes below Forty-second-st. in said city, any regulation or law conflicting with the above to be repealed.

On motion of Senator LEST the amendments proposed above were non-concurred in.

Appointments Confirmed.

The following appointments were confirmed by the Senate today:

Commissioner of Public Ways for New-York City—Thomas McGlynn, Edmund B. Bergman, Morris Morris, Thos. G. Baker, Willett Bronson, Edw. Brown, Jas. Bryan, Weeks W. Culver, Geo. Chalmers, Robert Gilder, John F. Gray, Jos. Weeks, Patrick H. McDonough, Chas. H. Nixon, Albert H. Phillips, Jas. B. Stevens, Charles Tillotson, Charles M. Vanderveort, Dudley R. Wilcox, Fred. E. Westbrook, John G. Haviland, John M. Knapp, Geo. De Forest Lord, C. M. Northrop, Lucius Pitkin, Edw. C. Cook, Robert Douglas, Wm. E. Hadley, Thos. H. Babcock, Chas. W. Baker, Enos R. Livingston, Roger H. Lyon, Charles A. Clarke, James W. Fisher, Robert M. Duke, Jas. J. Lockman, Jas. M. McCurtis, Owen F. McNierney, Harvey De Launay, Geo. H. Sheldon, Carey G. Langworthy, W. W. McGrew, Edw. A. Nichols, By Z. Roberts, and Fillmore J. Lankey.

Sewerage for Kings County—Theodore F. Jackson, Thomas Cotsen, of Williamsburgh, Wm. F. Evans, George W. Hall, Cyrus J. Olmsted, Samuel A. Prevost, jr., of Brooklyn.

Shooting Fracas in Richmond.

RICHMOND, Thursday, April 19, 1866.

Dr. T. S. Maddox and William Vernon exchanged pistol shots on Broadway, near Sixth, this afternoon. Both were slightly wounded; Dr. Maddox in the leg, and Vernon in the left hand. They were both arrested.

Fire in Philadelphia — The Inquirer Office Burned.

PHILADELPHIA, Thursday, April 19, 1866.

A fire broke out at 9 o'clock in the fourth story of The Inquirer building on Chestnut-st., above Third-st. The compositors in the room were forced to leave on account of the smoke. The fire so far is confined to the room in which it originated, and the firemen will probably save the building.

The Steamship England en route to New-York.

HALIFAX, Thursday, April 19, 1866.

The steamship England sailed last evening with the convalescents passengers for New-York.

She had no new cases of cholera.

Proclamation in Regard to Pestilence to be Issued by the Governor.

ALBANY, Thursday, April 19, 1866.

Gov. Fenton to-morrow issues a proclamation declaring New-York City in peril from impending pestilence, as requested by the Metropolitan Board of Health.

Markets—*Reported by Telegraph.*

PHILADELPHIA, April 19—Petroleum dull; sales of 2,000 bbls. Crude at 20c. Refined in bond, 34@35c. Refined free, 57@60c. Sugar firm; sales of Cuba at 9@9½c. Gold. Flour active; State advanced 25c.; sales of 6,000 bbls., which was chiefly Western. Wheat firm; sales of Yellow at 85c. Pork at $27.50@$28. Corn firm; sales of Yellow at 85c. Pork at $27 for Mess. Lard firm; sales at 15@16c. Sales of Pennsylvania Whisky at $2.26@2.28.

BALTIMORE, April 19—Flour firm; sales of Western Extra at $8.75. Howard Superfine, $8.25. Wheat advancing; sales of Red at $2.60@$2.70. Corn firmer; sales of White at 90c.; Yellow Southern, 92c. Oats steady. Seeds dull; sales of Clover at $9.50. Provisions quiet. Sugar steady. Whisky nominal.

CINCINNATI, April 19—Flour dull. Wheat dull at $1.37@$1.35 for No. 1, and $1.25@$1.05 for No. 2. Corn steady at 45@46c. for No. 1, and 42@43c. for No. 2. Oats firm at 27@28c. for No. 1, and 26@27c. for No. 2. Provisions firm and quiet. Mess Pork, $25.50@$26.00. Lard firm at 16@16½c. Freights quiet. Receipts—1,700 bbls. Flour, 20,000 bush. Wheat, 21,000 bush. Corn, 6,000 bush. Oats. Shipments—5,000 bbls. Flour, 23,000 bush. Wheat, 10,000 bush. Corn, 4,000 bush. Oats.

CINCINNATI, April 19—Flour active. Wheat dull. Whisky in moderate demand at $2.22. Mess Pork firm at $26. Gold, 128½.

The Austrian Note to the Prussian Government.

BERLIN, April 2.—The following is the text of the note delivered to Herr Von Bismark by Count Karolyi, the Austrian ambassador in this capital, on the 31st ult.:

It has come to the knowledge of the Austrian Cabinet that the Government of His Majesty the King of Prussia, in order to avert from itself the responsibility of the apprehensions that have arisen of peace being endangered, has attributed hostile intentions to the Imperial Court, and has even alluded to the probability of the Prussian monarchy being threatened by Austria's assuming the offensive.

Although the baselessness of such a supposition is notorious in Europe, the Imperial Government must, nevertheless, attach value to expressly protesting towards the King's Cabinet against an accusation so utterly at variance with the evidence of facts. The undersigned imperial Ambassador has therefore received instructions formally to declare to His Excellency Count von Bismark-Schönhausen that nothing is further from the intention of his majesty the Emperor than offensive action against Prussia. Not only do the friendly sentiments of the Emperor toward His Majesty's person, as well as toward the Prussian state, so frequently proved by word and deed, decisively prevent any such intention, but the Emperor is also mindful of the duties Austria as well as Prussia has solemnly undertaken by the German Federal treaty. His majesty the Emperor, for his part, is firmly determined to do anything in opposition to the tenor of Art. 11 of the Federal Pact, which prohibits the members of the Confederation from settling their disputes by force of arms. While the undersigned requests the Minister President to lay the present note before His Majesty the King, his illustrious master, he has to express the hope that the King's Cabinet will think fit to repudiate the suspicion of an intended breach of peace as decisively and unequivocally as the undersigned has done in the name of his Government, and thereby to restore that general confidence in the preservation of the internal peace of Germany which ought never to be disturbed. The undersigned has the honor, &c. KAROLYI.

Death of M. de Beaumont.

The Paris journals announce the death of M. Gustave de Beaumont, member of the Institute, and formerly member of the Chamber of Deputies for La Sarthe from 1839 to 1852. In 1848 he was appointed Embassador of France at Vienna, which post he resigned on the fall of the ministry of Odillon Barrot, Dufaure and Lanjuinais. He was one of the Deputies who met in the *mairie* of the 10th *arrondissement* on the famous 2d of December. M. de Beaumont was the author, in conjunction with M. de Tocqueville, of a work on the "Penitentiary System of the United States, and its Application to France." He was also the author of "Ireland: Social, Political and Religious," and "Marie: Or, Slavery in the United States." He was 62 years of age at the time of his death.

The Newnan Herald, Georgia, publishes in due form an application to the County ordinary for letters of administration by a colored man on the estate of a deceased friend. This is the first instance of the kind under the law passed by the last Georgia Legislature.

George Smith, Acting Governor of the State of Missouri, has designated Thursday, the 26th inst., to be observed as a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer in that State.

THE BORDER SCARE.

The Invasion of Canada a Great Humbug

AN ABUNDANCE OF ROORBACKS.

GENERAL MATTERS ALONG THE FRONTIER.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

EASTPORT, Me., Thursday, April 19, 1866.

There is no border war and has been none. No fights occurred at Calais, nor did the Fenians capture an English flag. There is no excitement on this side the boundary. The presence of a few Fenians organizing circles, coupled with provincial confederation schemes, is the foundation for the sensation; and the special dispatches sent to New-York papers have been villainously false and they have drawn hither many strangers, who came to join in the strife. Gen. Meade, who arrived this morning, will officially explode the bubble.

To the Associated Press.

PORTLAND, Me., Thursday, April 19, 1866.

It is stated that Gen. Meade has telegraphed for more troops to be sent to Eastport; that all the troops in this vicinity are to be forwarded, and others are expected here.

TORONTO, C. W., Thursday, April 19, 1866.

The volunteers which were sent to the Lower Canada frontier have been recalled, Fenian raids being no longer feared.

The examination of the Fenian prisoners at Cornwall continues with closed doors.

It is understood that the examination will be concluded to-day when the prisoners will be remanded for a few days to await the arrival of important witnesses.

It is generally thought that the prisoners will be committed for trial at the Fall assizes, unless special commissions are appointed by the Government for their trial at an earlier date.

Resolutions in favor of confederation of the British Provinces have passed the Nova-Scotia Assembly by a vote of 31 to 19. The question is still pending in the Parliament of New-Brunswick, and, if rejected there, the House will probably be dissolved and a new election held, involving a delay of some weeks before the final result.

TORONTO, C. W., Wednesday, April 18, 1866.

The following is sent to us from high F. B. authority, addressed:

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: *Whereas*, the Government of Canada has wantonly and treacherously caused the arrest and imprisonment of a number of our fellow-citizens, seized them without charges, and without even the formality considered necessary in Ireland—the suspension of the Habeas Corpus—and thus violated the sacred and inalienable rights of free citizens, and perpetrated a crime which even English despotism, at its birth-place, would not be guilty of. And

Whereas, Heretofore the Fenian Brotherhood of Canada has steadfastly and honestly opposed any attempt at the invasion of this country, even though that enterprise was said to be meant as a step toward the liberation of Ireland, and firmly maintained that the people of Canada, never having done an injury to Ireland or the Fenian Brotherhood, should not suffer the horrors of war at its hands, and, by fixed determination on this point, saved Canada so far from invasion; forgetting the narrow-minded and bigoted policy pursued by one portion of the Canadian people toward Irishmen, forgetting, too, the encouragement, aid and refuge afforded to the enemies of the United States during the late war. Witness the robbery of St. Alban's, the piratical raid on Lake Erie, the attempt to burn the city of New-York, to introduce the plague into the Northern hospitals; all those plots against the Northern people concealed, if not connected, by Canadian officials, the open and undisguised hatred exhibited toward Americans, the rejoicings and gloating over the defeats of the Union army, the desperate endeavors to tie away its victories and cast odium upon the soldiers of that generous land which has given our fellow-exiles a home, prosperity and freedom, and toward which, therefore, every true Irishman is animated with the warmest and most grateful feelings, and is identified with its citizens in spirit and sentiments and, consequently, feels an injury done or insult offered to the great Republic as though he himself had been injured. But

Whereas, By the late wanton aggression on innocent and peaceful citizens, the Canadian Government has proved itself not only regardless of the peace and welfare of its people, but extremely eager to prove to the world that it is a mere outpost of British despotism, more unscrupulous than its master in persecution.

Therefore, the Fenian Brotherhood of Canada accepts the late outrage as a challenge and a defiance, and will act accordingly. Wherever the Head Center gives its consent, we shall be ready to avenge the insult, and root out from American soil the last vestige of the tyranny to which, ninety years ago, the "thirteen colonies" gave the first blow, and, aided by our French Canadian fellow-citizens, replace it with the emblem of an independent sovereignty or the starry flag of that nation which is the last hope of freedom, republicanism and Ireland. ——, District Center.

God save the green!

TORONTO, April 14, 1866.

BROOKLYN NEWS.

THE LAST FEMALE OPERATOR.—Margaret McMahon, alias Williams, alias Wilson, was brought before Justice Cornwell, yesterday, for examination on the charge of obtaining articles from numerous ladies by false representations. It appears she was in the habit of calling at different residences and, inquiring for the lady of the house, relate a pitiful story of destitution and inability to procure employment for herself and infant, which she usually carried with her. She would give the name of some clergyman or well-known citizen as reference. By this means she procured materials for the purpose of making up children's clothing, sometimes ladies' dresses, &c. Nothing came amiss. She could do anything in the sewing line. All she desired was something to do. She almost invariably succeeded in taking away some articles to make up, but never returned. At one time she would give her name as McMahon, at another as Williams, and then again as Wilson. From the developments thus far made she has been driving a successful business since October last, and must have laid in quite a large stock. It is believed that she defrauded not less than 100 persons in this way. At the examination yesterday she was positively identified by Mrs. Maria E. Woodford, No. 277 Schermerhorn-st., Mrs. Geo. Harding, No. 39 Sands-st., Mrs. Emma Hill, No. 253 Hicks-st., Mrs. R. Hinman, corner Remsen and Clinton-sts., Mrs. Emily Hatch, No. 439 Pacific-st., and Mrs. Charles Merritt, No. 92 Schermerhorn-st. The accused, seeing that the evidence against her was overwhelming, pleaded guilty, and was committed to await the action of the Grand Jury.

FUNERAL OF A MEMBER OF THE TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.—Some evenings since Mr. Jeremiah Cooney, employed at Wetmore's Dock, came to his home in Main-st. from his work, and had no sooner entered the house than he fell down dead, the cause being apoplexy. The deceased was a member of the Assumption Temperance Society, and yesterday the remains were conveyed to their last resting place in Holy Cross Cemetery, Flatbush. The Society turned out in their regalia, and preceded by the Assumption Band, escorted the body to the grave.

MAYHEM.—Terrence O'Neill was brought before Justice Walsh yesterday afternoon on the charge of Mayhem. The accused and Patrick Costello got into a fight in a porter-house on the corner of Columbia and Luquer sts., on the evening of the 10th of April last, and in the struggle, O'Neill is alleged, bit off one of Costello's ears. O'Neill was committed for the action of the Grand Jury.

SUDDEN DEATH.—Mr. James Hyland, residing at No. 136 Bond-st., fell down dead yesterday afternoon. Cause supposed to be disease of the heart.

ARREST OF PICKPOCKETS.—Detective Frost arrested a man and woman yesterday afternoon on the charge of picking pockets. They gave their names as Thomas and Catherine O'Brien. The Officer observed the women coming out of Mrs. Hand's store in Fulton-st. and hand a pocketbook to the man, who was waiting near by. The latter put the pocketbook under an ash barrel, and then both walked along as innocently as possible. The Officer took possession of the pocketbook and arrested both the operators. The lady who was relieved of her pocketbook in the above store about that time is requested to call at the office of Police Inspector Folk. The accused were committed for a hearing.

Naval Intelligence.

PRACTICE SQUADRON OF THE NAVAL ACADEMY.

Orders have been issued by the Navy Department to place in readiness for the Summer cruise, the vessels comprising the practice squadron of the Naval Academy. The steam vessels to be attached to this squadron are the gunboats Marblehead and Winnepec, and the tug boat Phlox as a tender. The sailing frigates Constitution, Santee and Macedonian will probably be attached to the squadron, but that has not yet been determined, as many objections have been made to their use, several distinguished naval officers being of the opinion that steam vessels only should be employed in exercising the midshipmen. The cruise of this Summer promises to be of unusual interest, as the midshipmen will not only be required to work the steamers under canvass, but will also learn the duties of firemen and coal passers, and those who are sufficiently advanced in their engineering studies will stand watch as engineers. This system of training our young naval officers to be practical engineers as well as practical seamen is of recent origin, but promises to be of much benefit to the service, and has worked well so far. The reports received from the gunboat Swatara, on board of which this system was first inaugurated, are highly satisfactory, showing that the midshipmen attached to that vessel are in a fair way of becoming practical engineers as well as seamen. The practice squadron will probably rendezvous at Newport, R. I., in the latter part of May or beginning of June, and from that place will start on their cruise, during which, it is supposed, the Canadian coast will be visited, touching at all the principal ports of Nova-Scotia and New-Brunswick.

THE STATEMENT REGARDING NITRO-GLYCERINE — The statement, which appeared in several papers on Thursday morning, to the effect that a large quantity of nitro-glycerine, or blasting-oil (the explosion of which recently caused such havoc in San Francisco), was stored in the Custom-House, caused great apprehension, many persons refraining from entering the Custom-House this morning for fear of being blown up. The Collector of Customs contradicts the statement alluded to. He says there is none of the oil stored in the building of the Custom-House proper, and that he has taken measures to examine the contents of all the United States warehouses, in order to have the dangerous material removed, if any should be found.

A gentleman just arrived from Alabama reports unparalleled suffering among the people from want, many having actually died of starvation, and thousands of others verging on death with hardly any hope ahead.

FROM TEXAS.

New-Orleans—Voyage Through the Gulf—The Mexican Tongue—The Brenck-bone Fever.

From Our Special Correspondent.

BROWNSVILLE, Texas, March 21, 1866.

A hasty good-bye, said and returned, and the vessel, a sailer, upon which your correspondent had taken passage, and which had been delayed for nearly two days to complete her cargo, dropped away from her moorings, and grappling to a tug, was soon head-down and speeding for the Balize. The little tug, the merest diminutive concentration of steam power, which might easily have been stowed in our hold, rushing through the water with us at the rate of ten miles an hour.

One cannot be long in New-Orleans—now that it has in a great measure assumed the character that it wore before the war—without leaving it with regret. In its French characteristics, it is Paris improved. New-Orleans life, with the Creoles, and even among many citizens of remote American ancestry, is a long and never interrupted pursuit of amusement and social enjoyment, not the frivolous pleasure that characterizes the French capital, but a happily Americanized way of doing it which money-making is a pastime but not a passion, and every mercantile transaction, from the sale of an orange to the disposal of a cargo of sugar, involves a joke. Socially, it is rapidly approximating its former standard, while its reputation as the most cleanly city on the continent—never lost during the war—remains unimpaired. In fact, what with the stringent regulations and the almost daily washing and scrubbing of the streets, a young lady might walk a dozen squares without causing any deflacement to the light soles of her gaiters. When this city has attained its former commercial prosperity, it will be the New-Orleans of old, without the gloomy social feature of slave marts and Slavery. So mote it be!

Half submerged on the right bank of the river, as we descried it, lies a charred skeleton with ponderous broken ribs, that looks as if it might be the remains of some huge marine monster that had died for the lack of its native element even in this great river. It is the wreck of the Rebel ram Webb, which came so defiantly out of Red River, ran through the fleet at New-Orleans, and, finding it impossible to reach the Gulf, was ran ashore and burned. This was the only naval achievement of the Rebels that would begin to compare with the running of the blockade at Vicksburg and Island No. 10.

The decline of day brought us to Fort Jackson on the west and Fort St. Philip on the east bank of the river—two tremendous casemated fortifications, whose names have probably been shaded from the public memory by the rapid recurrence of events since they were captured. They mount 150 guns each, and are impregnable to any land attack that can be made from seaward. The cost to the Government of building them averaged over $1,000,000 each. Strong as they are, the intrepidity of Admiral Farragut in running above them with his fleet, forced their surrender, which, of course, involved the capture of New-Orleans. The forts could never have been taken from below, for they were built years before the Rebellion, with an especial view to guarding against hostile approaches to the city. But the construction of each is such that the line of fire from the casemates cannot be directed further up the river than an angle of about 10 degrees with the current. So when Farragut ran above them, it was not possible to fire upon him, and the first great Union victory of the war was gained, and for the first time the fleet was demonstrated that, in a military view, the sea outranked the land, and that old mother earth must find a new means of protecting herself.

It may be interesting to the searcher for historic details to know that, according to the official report, 7,560 shells were thrown at Fort Jackson from the Union fleet, 4,419 of which are known to have taken effect—the remainder not being accounted for. This fact originated the joke of most current just after the engagement, that Farragut, after the war, ought to go into the laundry business, on account of the skill and rapidity with which he could iron.

As we approach the Gulf, the Mississippi begins to lose the definite character of a river, and at the present stage of the water assumes much the appearance of a swamp, with a dimly-defined channel of deep water passing through it. This is owing in a measure to the levee having been cut during the light at Fort Jackson, for the purpose of overflowing the floors of the casemates in that work.

Our little Hermes steamship cast off from us about 8 o'clock, and we sped on on our own responsibility. Forty miles from the mouth of the river we come to where the waters of the Gulf and the Mississippi finally commingle. No, for miles further on we can see occasional spots on the bright surface of the sea-water, where the yet unmodified current is curdling up. It is said there are times when a ship may sail a hundred miles before getting out of sight of the murky characteristics of that great river. The morning of the third day found us at Galveston, where we were assured, before taking passage, that the vessel would not stop, she being advertised as bound direct for the Rio Grande. This is a species of misrepresentation not uncommon, especially with transient vessels, and which your correspondent knows is sometimes the cause of unaccustomed hard swearing.

Let me here relate a ludicrous occurrence that happened the day we reached the mouth of the Rio Grande, and which will illustrate the utter incapacity of the southern m's and n's and the indolent d's of the Castilian tongue, and the harsh syllables of the remaining characteristics of the ancient Mexican language, all of which are blended together in the native or Creole Spanish. It may be worth while to premise that although I was acting as THE TRIBUNE'S Mexican "special" last fall, I was quartered either among Mexican officers, who were mostly of Confederate descent, or with the French Imperialists and hence had heard but little of the language.

Approaching a gentlemanly, middle-aged man, with whom I had not yet spoken, I asked him how soon he thought we would reach "the river." "*Whencketty racketty black jack daddy and!*" he replied, very politely. At least, that was what I thought he said. Thinking the man crazy, and not caring to know what further remark his papa had seen fit to make use of, I was turning off when he arose and approached me, bowing and uttering a whole page of crazy syllables of which I could make out something like "*mucho plano, mucho plano, mehcom sacu.*" I was just considering whether or not I should feel insulted when a gentleman informed me that he was talking Mexican to me.

Brownsville! The very sight of it fills my memory with agonizing recollections and my flesh fairly creeps upon the next glimpse of the hotel where a half year ago, I lay writhing with the "break-bone fever." As the season of its prevalence is again drawing near, it will not be out of place to say what it is like, if such a thing is possible.

It is certainly a mystery why this disease, which is so appropriately and suggestively named, has never been exalted to an equality with the epidemic nightmares of the age. The cholera and yellow fever, it is true, wield a more destructive scepter; but while this unmerciful fever is for weeks torturing you with all the torments of the rack, they are expeditiously ending your sufferings in this world and sending you on a trial of the chances in the next. From his own personal experience of three weeks terrible duration, your correspondent is convinced that it is entitled, if not to the hideous dignity of one of Death's chief recruiting agents, at least to a national celebrity.

To be brief, the break-bone fever is a roaring, racking toothache, disseminated with wonderfully exact discrimination throughout the entire osseous system. It is a constellation of many tailed comets having their nuclei in the joints and relatedly shooting their tails of agony through the length and breadth of the adjacent bones. You are made painfully conscious of every bone in you, and ache with an indescribable intensity and a hopeless continuity. You ache from the top of the head to the tips of the toes—from the shoulder down to the finger ends, and even, it would seem, down to the very point of the pencil with which you are vainly endeavoring to write. Every position in which you may throw yourself seems the most painful one you could have taken. Often and often did your correspondent lie in the twech deck gloom of our vessel when he was first attacked, and almost revel in the luxurious recollections of the happy days when he was only sea-sick.

The duration of the prevalence of this disease is coequal with that of the yellow fever, of which it is a modified type. The coming of the Autumn frosts puts an end to both, but even then it leaves the sufferer with reluctance, and enlivens his memory of previous sufferings with occasional wrenches of the bones, which gradually decrease in frequency and violence until he is well. Its violent prevalence bodes well for the inhabitants, for the more fatal disease of yellow fever never encroaches to much extent upon the region which it may chance to be infecting. J. L. M.

RAMBLES AMONG THE RECONSTRUCTED.

Visit to Columbia, S. C.—Its Past and Present—The Ultra "Chivalrous" Character of its Former Citizens—Ruins of the Town—The Authors of its Destruction—Southern Women—Comparisons with those of the North—Slavery and Diet at Fault.

From Our Special Correspondent.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Monday noon, April 2, 1866.

Charleston ceases to appear a city of ruins after a visit to the South Carolina capital. This was one of the most pleasant towns in the South, and certainly the most pleasant in the State, before the great fire which laid four-fifths of the place in ashes. It looked more modern and comfortable, was better built, and had more trees and gardens, and a better location than any other in Palmettodom. The inhabitants were for the most part cultivated and wealthy, and, as a natural consequence, extremely disloyal; representing the best element, socially, and the worst element, politically, in the State.

AN EXCLUSIVE LOCALITY.

This was the spot where Secession and Society put forth their most pretentious claims; and where the two were so closely united, so entirely inseparable, that one could not exist without the other. Here resided the oldest, and really the best, families, so far as education and refinement went, of Carolina (the people of this State have never recognized the right of their more Northern neighbors to the "proud" name); and here the would-be cotton lords and rice barons dwelt in as much ease and luxury as can coexist with the peculiar form of civilization that Slavery engendered, with no care beyond the thought of their sable servants, and the deepest conviction that the universe was a very small and unimportant part of South Carolina.

The Columbians were the fiercest and most uncompromising of traitors. They were, man, woman and child, of the extreme die-in-the-last-ditch school, and of the never-can-be-subjugated class. They were the kind of insolent boasters want to threaten that Southern gentleman's slaves would drive the cowardly Yankee hosts with raw hides across the Potomac, if they should ever summon courage enough through numbers and liquor, to invade the sacred soil possessed by a haughty and high-born race.

BOASTFULNESS VS. FACTS.

Arrogant simpletons, Palmetto Pistols, where is the world, their oyster, that they with sword have opened? Their pomposity could not have been more completely extinguished, their silly vauntings more severely punished, if the Deity of Good-Sense—to whom no shrine has ever been consecrated in this State—had striven to revenge himself upon them for their utter ignoring of his existence.

Their "Confederacy" is a forgotten phantasy; their State a half-depopulated tract of swampy land, which might slip into the sea and never be missed; their City a striking exemplification of the aphorism that fire is an excellent servant, but a bad master.

Had they learned wisdom by experience—and the profoundest simpletons can usually acquire their lessons in that school—I should feel more pity and respect for them.

But, even now, they are boastful, and totally misinterpret the magnanimity that has been shown them.

If a people who delude themselves perpetually with the notion that they are "haughty" and "chivalrous," should sometime be illuminated with the idea that vaunting never established a truth, it would be vastly better for them, and highly conducive to the development of their much-neglected reason.

THE RUINS OF COLUMBIA.

Columbia had 125 squares, and of these 84 were destroyed. No effort has been made to rebuild the structures that have been consumed, and present indications are that the town will long remain unalterably sacred to its ruins. Nearly all of the original population have either died or gone away; business is stagnant, and the few hundreds of people remaining here seem to have been inmates of the fabled Sleepy Hollow.

The handsome capitol of white marble is very conspicuous and attractive in the midst of the desolation, and seems as if it might have descended, like an enchanted palace, from the clouds, seeking the sad remains of a departed city.

THE AUTHORS OF THE DESTRUCTION.

The inhabitants continue to declare the Yankees fired the town, although there is no reasonable doubt that Wade Hampton first applied the torch to his own house, and caused all the destruction that afterward followed. Sherman's forces unquestionably laid waste a great deal of the country in this vicinity, and plundered and pillaged with a recklessness hardly to be wondered at under the circumstances, on their line of march through the State; but they did not burn Columbia, as I have excellent reason to know; and the Rebels need not insist on declaring the Northerners the authors of the mischief they brought upon themselves.

SOUTHERN WOMEN.

Columbia once enjoyed a high local reputation for the beauty and elegance of its women, of the privileged class, of course; and I remember to have seen some quite comely members of the gentler sex hereabout a few years ago. Beauty expresses to me more than Nature seems willing to assign to the dear sisterhood who make so much of the weal and wo of creation's lords. They are interesting and handsome and loveable enough for all practical and poetical purposes, unquestionably; albeit I have never been able to admire the Southern maidens and dames, who are so inferior, esthetically, to those of the North.

It was very common, before the war, to hear the Southern women spoken of as models of all attractiveness, as the finest feminine embodiments of American grace, refinement and sensibility, and not a few who had failed to visit this section, actually believed the story these people told with so much flippancy and such irrepressible iteration.

The uneducated females here were always repulsive, of course—for they had nothing in their life, surroundings or possibilities to prevent them from remaining all their years the yellow, scraggy, snuff-dipping, shrill-voiced harpies they were born. But the higher class, the ladies par eminence, had what almost invariably makes lovely women—ease, wealth, opportunity for culture, the advantage of travel, and other aids to superior mental and physical development. And yet, with few exceptions, they were never fine. The porcelain clay of humanity did not form any large portion of their composition. They were of the ordinary earth, earthy, lacking the intellectuality, spirituality, delicacy and elegance that give so rare a charm to the Northern women. They were poorly educated and worse bred, alarmingly deficient in taste, frivolous in character, and violent in temper; utterly devoid of the sweetness that yields alike to the floral and feminine creation its dearest excellence.

CAUSES OF THEIR UNLOVABLENESS.

The causes of their inferiority, or, rather, undevelopment, must be sought in slavery first, and in diet next.

No woman reared under the baneful influences of Slavery, and whose daily food is bacon and corn-bread, can be gentle or fine. It is as impossible as to suppose Ophelia being Hamlet for a breach of promise, or Imogen wearing unimaculate hose. Laura di Nevea would have adored her husband instead of her poet-lover, and Beatrice have cured Dante of his life-long passion by a single gesture, if they had dwelt among black bondmen, and banqueted on preparations of maize.

It has been said of the Southern women, by one of their own sex, that they look as if they never had been kissed. I cannot conceive how a woman subject to osculatory starvation would appear, if she had ever lived. Indeed, I cannot imagine so rare a monster; but I apprehend the phrase was used figuratively for a hard, unnatural expression that they have, which is so perceptible that I am confident, if all men were like me, they never would be caressed, though soft lips were as uncommon as lilies in the Lybian Desert. Who, after embracing a corn-fed divinity, or a bacon-consuming angel, with a temperamental tendency to snuff dipping, could say:

"The fragrant infancy of opening flowers
Plowed to my senses in that melting kiss"

THE WORKERS IN IRON.

Machine-Shops and Boiler-Works—What They are Doing.

That we might present to our readers a detailed account of the business now doing in the principal machine-shops and boiler-works of our city, our reporter, within a few days, has made the circuit of the city, and gathered, so far as practicable, the particulars of the state of the works now being prosecuted. Although a large reduction is observable from a year or two ago, many of the shops are pretty busy in finishing up the contracts of last year. This work consists of large and powerful engines, boilers, &c., designed mostly for the merchant service. We append a list of the shops, their location, and the principal work going on in each:

NOVELTY IRON WORKS, FOOT OF TWELFTH-ST., EAST RIVER.

About 850 men are now employed in the various departments of this establishment, and with the present contracts business will be brisk for six months to come. They have recently completed the engines and boilers for the large steamer Arizona, 2,793 tuns, belonging to the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, and within 30 days the machinery of the Montana, sister ship to the Arizona, will be fully completed. They have also in process of construction the machinery for two large and magnificent steamships, designed for the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, and intended for service on the route between San Francisco and China. All of these engines are of the vertical beam description, 105 inches cylinder by 12 feet stroke of piston, and of elaborate workmanship.

These works are pushing the work on the two engines for the United States screw frigate Wampanoag to a rapid completion. They will be so far finished as to admit of putting on steam by the last of July next, and in all probability be turned over to the Government within a month subsequent to that time.

They are also doing their usual amount of repairing, and among the steamships recently and at present being refitted by them are the Northern Light, which has been thoroughly overhauled, previous to being dispatched to Aspinwall, there to be retained as an extra vessel by the Pacific Mail Steamship Company; the Mariposa, Monterey and Mississippi, having had repairs done to engines and boilers, and the Clara Clarita, formerly the steam yacht of L. W. Jerome, esq., having been purchased by the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, has been fitted as a tender and dispatch boat, and also supplied with pumps, hose, &c., that she may be used as a fire-engine boat when occasion requires. She is now nearly completed.

MORGAN IRON WORKS, FOOT OF NINTH-ST., EAST RIVER.

Here there is considerable activity, and they are employing about 640 men. They have very recently finished the vertical beam engine now on board the steamer Star of the East, intended for service between Boston and Gardiner, Me.; this engine is 54 inches diameter of cylinder by 11 feet stroke of piston, and has an effective power of 900 horses; they have also just completed a beam engine for the iron steamer Nuevo Cubano, built by T. F. Rowland of Greenpoint, and intended for service on the south side of the Island of Cuba, between Batabano and the Isle of Pines; this engine is 36 inches diameter of cylinder by 9 feet stroke of piston. The machinery for the large frigate Ammonoosuc is being pushed forward with vigor, and will be in readiness in good season; it consists of two geared engines, having 100-inch cylinders, and four feet, stroke of piston. The large and elaborate pumping engines, designed for the Water Works of Chicago, are constructing here, and will be finished before required. Beside this, they are constructing other works, consisting of engines, boilers, &c., and are doing large amount of repairing; among the vessels at their docks being overhauled are the Commodore, Brooks, Continental, Bridgeport, City of Hartford, &c.

FULTON IRON-WORKS, FOOT OF CORLEAR'S HOOK, EAST RIVER.

This establishment is now employing some 275 men, and are busy upon the engines for steamship building by Thomas Stack of Greenpoint, and owned by Arthur Leary & Co. of this city. They are also constructing several boilers, stationary engines, &c., and are doing a large amount of repairing, the propeller Circassian being one of the most recent jobs. Among the last completed engine and boiler contracts of the works, are: Alhambra and Granada, sister ships, 762 tuns, vertical beam engines, 45-inch cylinder by 11 feet stroke; Jas. T. Brady, vertical beam, 45-inch cylinder by 11 feet stroke; City Point, 1,100 tuns, vertical direct engines 44-inch cylinder by 2 feet 9 inches stroke.

ALLAIRE IRON WORKS, CHERRY-ST.

These works are the oldest in the country, and among their achievements in engine-building for the mercantile marine may be honorably mentioned those on board the well-known steamships Baltic, Pacific, Vanderbilt, Illinois, Empire City, Northern Light, Star of the West, Costa Rica, New-York, Mora, Cosmopolitan, Empire State, Bay State, and many others. They have recently finished engines and boilers for vessels belonging to Messrs. Benner & Brown of this city, Pacific Mail Steamship Company, and a vertical beam engine for a steamship for Commodore Vanderbilt—90-inch cylinder by 12 feet stroke of piston.

At present they are engaged upon several contracts for engines and boilers for two steamboats, and works in the oil regions. They have also done, and are at present doing, considerable repairing. The number of men employed here is about 350.

ÆTNA IRON WORKS, RIVINGTON AND GOERCK