ject is to introduce a general bill restricting the power of cities to levy taxes above a certain amount. Adopted.

Mr. FLOYD JONES called up the resolution, declaring it inexpedient and unwise to enact any Prohibitory law.

The question now pending is Mr. Foot's motion to amend, by declaring it expedient to enact a prohibitory law.

Mr. JONES made a speech in reply to Judge Foot's remarks, denying that the Democratic party is the party of rum and Slavery, but declaring it opposed to Prohibition as oppresive and unconstitutional.

After debate, Mr. Jones' resolution respecting a Prohibitory law was labeled. Adjourned.

ELECTION OF A PRESIDENT OF THE STATE SENATE.

ALBANY, Monday, Jan. 26, 1857.

The statement of the vote on the election of Mark Spencer as President, pro tem., of the Senate, on Saturday, was entirely incorrect. No Republican voted for Mr. Spencer. He was elected by ten Americans—who voted for him by preconcert—and four Democrats—Mr. Spencer voting for himself. Twelve Republicans only were present. Mr. Upham did not vote, and Messrs. Ramsay, Richardson, Halsted and another were absent.

DEPARTURE OF THE NORTH AMERICA.

PORTLAND, Monday, Jan. 26, 1857.

The steamship North America sailed at noon yesterday for Liverpool. The Canadian mails having arrived, our harbor is open, and the weather is moderating. The thermometer is only 17 deg. below zero this morning.

FIRE AT WATERTOWN.

WATERTOWN, Monday, Jan. 26, 1857.

A fire broke out yesterday in the large building known as the Manufacturers' Block, situated in North Watertown. The building was occupied by a great number of mechanics. The large bridge leading to North Watertown was also burnt. The loss is $20,000; no insurance.

BURNING OF AN ALMS-HOUSE, AND LOSS OF LIFE.

BOSTON, Monday, Jan. 26, 1857.

The Alms-House for insane poor in South Danvers was destroyed by fire yesterday morning, and two female inmates perished in the flames.

FIRE IN FISHKILL.

NEWBURGH, Monday, Jan. 26, 1857.

Dr. O. W. May's watercure building at Fishkill Landing was burned down yesterday morning.

THE HARBOR OF BOSTON.

BOSTON, Monday, Jan. 26, 1857.

A meeting of merchants at the Exchange to-day, presided over by James M. Beebe, adopted a resolution to secure the immediate opening of Boston harbor. The city has already expended $2,000 in the work, which will now be perfected by contributions from Insurance offices and mercantile parties interested. The work of cutting the channel progresses rapidly.

The mansion of Ingersoll Bowditch, Jamaica Plains, was destroyed by fire this morning, including his valuable library, furniture, &c.

THE WEATHER—MAILS.

OSWEGO, Monday, Jan. 26, 1857.

There was a great snow-storm here yesterday. Over two feet of snow fell on a level. It appears to have extended for over ten miles around.

BALTIMORE, Monday, Jan. 26, 1857.

The cold here was intense early this morning, the thermometer ranging from 3 to 5 deg. below zero. The cold has moderated now, but is still severe.

CHICAGO, Monday, Jan. 26, 1857.

The weather is moderate. It has been raining and thawing since noon. All the railroads in this vicinity are open, but the trains are very irregular. Advices from Davenport state that there have been no trains over the Mississippi and Missouri Road since the 19th inst.

FROM WASHINGTON.

THE TRANSATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22, 1857.

The Senate passed a bill to-day appropriating $70,000 per annum for the support of the Transatlantic Telegraph, and voting the use of ships to lay down the hither half of the cable.

Mr. Field, the agent and one of the members of this Company, lately went to England and obtained from the British Government a proposition to pay £14,000 sterling per annum for the use of the line, and an offer of a ship to lay down the British end of it. Annexed to that proposition was a condition that the English Government should have priority over all others in sending messages, "subject to the exception only of the Government of the United States, in the event of their entering into an arrangement *similar in principle* to that of the British Government; in which case the messages of the two Governments shall have priority in the order in which they arrive at the stations."

Upon the basis of this agreement with the English Government, the bill to which we allude has been introduced and passed through the Senate.

The appropriation is a very useful one for the stockholders of the Telegraph Company, but it is anything but a proper one for this Government to make. The British authorities, in that practical spirit which characterizes all of their administrative functions, but of which this Government knows little, very wisely concluded that their intercourse with their extensive possessions on this continent, both on our northern frontier and in the West Indies, would be so facilitated and improved by the projected enterprise as to be of immense national advantage to them. They accordingly seized with avidity upon so tempting an opportunity to draw nearer to the home Government the outlying portions of that empire on this continent. Nothing could have been more to the advantage of the British Government than so doing.

At the same time they did this, they had the address to obtain the consent of the agent of the Company to priority in the use of the line, an advantage unwisely conceded, and which may and probably will operate to the serious disadvantage of the mercantile public, and of the press in many cases, should the line get into successful operation. That Government, however, made the concession in favor of the United States on the condition we have quoted. Doubtless it was prompted to do so by the consideration that the line was originally an American enterprise, and that otherwise they would be fairly chargeable with the design to monopolize its advantages on occasions of importance. But the point we wish to make is, that the bargain made was a wise one for that Government, and we have no doubt was based upon a deliberate calculation of the business it would need to transact over the line. That Government has twenty-three independent colonial Governments on this side of the Atlantic. It has probably, on an average, over 20,000 troops in its American and West Indian colonies; and it has, we presume, a squadron of not less than two thousand guns usually afloat in American waters. The constant and extended use, therefore, which that Government must make of the Transatlantic Telegraph is very manifest. There was thus nothing out of place in the stipulation made by the Company and acceded to by that Government, "that if the Government messages in "any year shall, at the usual tariff rate charged to "the public, amount to a larger sum (than the "aforesaid £14,000), such additional payment "shall be made as is equivalent thereto." Because it is quite likely that its regular business over the line will amount to more than the sum it stipulates to pay by the year. If it should send no more than one message per week to each of its Governors, Commanding Generals and Admirals on this side of the Atlantic, containing no more than a hundred words, or ten lines of newspaper print, in each, the cost of its messages would be over £25,000 a year, at the rate it is understood the Telegraph Company will charge—that is, $1 a word. The Government of Great Britain has therefore been engaged in a regular and profitable transaction with Mr. Field, and in obtaining the priority in the transmission of its messages over the commercial and newspaper interests, has obtained what will very likely turn out to be a very important advantage at the expense of the public.

But can anybody give any good reason why the United States should make any such bargain? We have neither Colonies, Navies, Governors, Generals nor Admirals on the European Continent. Our public vessels there are very scarce, and for the rest what have we? We need take no account of diplomatic intercourse, for neither Government will trust that to the wires. We have thus no use for the line, or very near to none.

But, it is argued, we cannot send what few messages we may have until Great Britain is served, unless we now agree to pay $70,000 per annum. The memorandum of the British Government says no such thing. It simply declares the United States shall not stand upon an equality with Great Britain in transmitting messages unless our Government makes an agreement with the Company "*similar in principle*" to that made by the English Government. Is that a stipulation that the *sum* paid by each shall be equal? The British authorities were no such fools as to pretend that the telegraph in question was to be of as much use to this Government as to that. We doubt very much whether the parties to the existing understanding ever supposed this Government would do more than furnish such aid to the enterprise as could be afforded by some of our war steamers. How could they have supposed this Government would give an equal annual gratuity with England to a private company, for a service which every man can see cannot possibly amount to a tenth of that required by the British Government?

All that the United States need do to obtain all the advantages of the contract made by England, is to do what everybody would be glad to see them do, aid in laying down the cable, and pay for the service of the line, in proportion to the use made of it. To do more than this is simply to legislate the public money into the pockets of a private company out of good will to the company solely, and without any good reason for the act.

But all views that do not embrace the idea of a lavish expenditure of the public money for all sorts of magnificent objects, are reckoned narrow in these latitudes. Economy in administration is no longe esteemed a virtue. The Treasury bags are too full

J. S. P.

From Our Own Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Saturday, Jan. 24, 1857.

We have access once more to civilization. The snow seige is raised; the railroads are thawed out; accumulated mails come, like great leviathans, floundering along, and the "cold term" has invited a truce. During the week in which Washington has been barricaded with drifts there has been a little frigid excitement, growing out of the proceedings before the sitting Inquisition. But that subsided within twenty-four hours, and people are now more interested in knowing what happened in the outer world during this suspension of intercourse, than in the results of a personal matter which no longer has the attraction of novelty. A State prisoner is a curiosity, however familiar may have been his proportions as a private person, until the first morbid taste has been gratified. After that he soon settles down into former individuality.

In discussing the bill for enforcing testimony, much stress was laid in the Senate yesterday upon the invasion of constitutional and personal rights, and the danger of the principle ingrafted. The bill may be imperfect in some of its details, and this was conceded by its peculiar friends. But no man will pretend to deny, unless it was designed to render the pending investigation just such a farce as all its predecessors have proved to be, that some efficient agent was necessary to carry it out properly now. If it be defective or oppressively stringent, public opinion, the great reviser of law in this country, will soon suggest a remedy. There was force in some of the amendments proposed by Mr. Seward, and in some of the objections urged by Mr. Pugh, but everybody knows that the intention of the act would have been practically defeated by protracted legal refinements between the two Houses. There are those who believe that this very law, instead of asserting any increase of power on the part of Congress, really limits that which already exists in either House to punish for contempt of its authority. But that power, undefined as it is, never has been exercised with effect, and never could be, while the public sympathy would always take but one direction in a controversy between Congress and an individual. Hence the necessity of drawing the line, fixing the penalties, and describing the obligations of witnesses.

The President has abandoned his intention of visiting Cuba after the 4th of March. A sea voyage is pronounced hazardous to the health of Mrs. Pierce, and the family will therefore seek repose in some retired part of the South, until the transition to New-England may be made without danger. It is probable that Aiken, in South Carolina, will be chosen for their sojourn.

In consequence of the severe burns which Judge Daniel suffered at the time of the fatal accident to his wife, in the effort to extinguish the flames, he has not since then attended the Supreme Court or received any company. For this reason there has been no formal consultation on the Missouri case, and it is scarcely probable that judgment will be pronounced until near the expiration of the Term.

It is now doubtful if any general measure for the improvement or extension of Ocean Mail service will be adopted at this Session. The bill which Gen. Rusk reported last Session, limiting the pay for this service to that allowed the Cunard line, and giving discretion to the Postmaster-General and Secretary of the Navy to determine the routes, while encouraging an extension of those on this Continent, lies on the table of the Committee, and without any disposition being manifested to give it vitality. On this as upon other projects of National legislation, there seems to be either an indifference or a desire for postponement until the advent of the new Administration. The House Committee have repeatedly met, and often without a quorum. The Chairman and a minority are in favor of opening the Ocean service to the same mode of competition that is observed for land service. Others different plans, so that there is no concert of opinion, and hardly likely to be any well devised project. Mr. Barclay is now preparing a report, partially founded upon inquiries addressed to the Postmaster-General, whose answer has been sent to THE TRIBUNE, in which his endeavor will be to show the great benefits conferred upon the country by the Collins line, the saving to the Government in postages, and the like, and the consequent duty of purchasing the steamers, or of putting them upon a more advantageous footing. Mr. Collins is upon the ground endeavoring to bring Congress to a recognition of what he regards as obligations resulting from his contract.

Mr. Buchanan will be here next week, to confer with his political friends. The South, while anxious to promote Mr. Toucey's appointment, will not urge him alone. They claim representative men from their own section, and do not consider Mr. Benjamin, and others who have been suggested, in that category. Unless some concession should be made to this sentiment, they will not press any claims whatever, but allow things to take their own course. There are manifest tokens of disagreement which events will be likely rather to encourage than to prevent.

INDEX.

EXTRAORDINARY TELEGRAPHIC FEAT.—The following message was transmitted over the wires of the American Telegraph Company, and others connecting with the lines of that Company, from St. Johns, Newfoundland, to Washington, with the ordinary repetitions, ahead of time—that is, it was received at Washington, nearly 2,000 miles distant, ten minutes, apparently, before it was sent:

"ST. JOHNS, N. F., Monday, Jan. 26—11:06 A. M.

"The Legislature of this colony will be opened on Thursday next. The Atlantic telegraph cable will form a prominent topic in Gov. Darling's speech."

Received at Washington at 10:56 a. m.

BURNS FESTIVAL AT CONSTITUTION HALL.—About 300 Scotchmen and their friends met at Constitution Hall, Broadway, last night to commemorate the birthday anniversary of the Scottish Poet Burns.

A number of songs were sung and toasts given, while

"The lads without the lasses blithely beat,
Sat round the table weel content,
And soomed about the toddy."

It was not probable at the time our reporter left that the programme would be exhausted before 5 o'clock this morning.

Probable Overthrow of Walker.

INTELLIGENCE FROM THE ALLIED CAMP.

The following is a copy of a letter received by the last steamer addressed to a gentleman in this city. Its contents speak for themselves.

"CASTILLO, Jan. 1, 1857.

"DEAR SIR: We have about 700 fine fellows from the mountains of Costa Rica now in Fort San Carlos. They have two 24 pounders, two brass 12 pounders, three brass 4 pounders, plenty of ammunition and provisions, and firm resolution to hold the river or perish to a man.

"We have all the steamers except the San Carlos, which I expect will be over with the passengers in a few days.

"We have a strong garrison at Sarapiqui, with cannon, &c. Also at Castillo, where Costa Rica has inaugurated a Governor. Last night General Mora and three hundred more men were placed in Fort San Carlos, that place having been taken by us the night before without firing a gun.

"We have accomplished a complete and rapid succession of surprises until we are in possession of the whole river from Point Arenas to Fort San Carlos. There was not a gun fired except at Sarapiqui, and I believe but three or four shots at that place, for we went in with the bayonets lashed to the rifles.

"In capturing the La Virgen we found on board all the Minie howitzers and cartridges, pack saddles, &c., lately shipped by the George Law; the letters and all by the bark Gov. Hubbard, have fallen into our hands.

"You may make up your minds, Walker is now '*gone in.*' More men and munitions of war will proceed up to fort San Carlos in the morning.

"The plan of operations is such as to ensure that Walker will desert the country or fall a victim to starvation *in less than three weeks*.

"General Montenigro is in Chontales, about 40 miles above San Carlos, with a thousand well-armed men.

"I assure you, should Walker hear of us before the passengers come over, and come himself with 3,000, it would be the destruction of the entire party, for our position is about impregnable.

"Walker has about 700 well men, and 400 sick; but I feel well assured he can get no information of our doings, and that the San Carlos will come as usual with her passengers."

MORE ABOUT THAT MYSTERIOUS CASE

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 26, 1857.

This morning the individual who entered bail for the New-York merchant charged with drugging a young lady of Vermont, the particulars of which were published in THE TRIBUNE, came before Ald. Eone and asked to be released from his responsibility. The Alderman granted the release, but informed the accused that he would not take any one else as bail, and he would therefore be compelled to commit him. The accused then expressed his willingness to go to New-York, without having another hearing. This request was granted, and he will be taken to your city to-night or to-morrow morning.

Since penning the communication on Sunday, I have ascertained the following additional particulars in reference to this mysterious case. It appears that the accused, who gives his name as B. W. Bartin, now resides in this city, though he was formerly engaged in mercantile pursuits in New-York. He is a widower, and about 40 years of age. About eight months since, the young lady, the prosecutrix, was on to this city, paying a visit to her aunt, who lives in the Twenty-fourth Ward, and while there there the defendant became acquainted with and courted her, but in consequence of a disparity in their ages, the young lady objected to marrying him. On her departure for home, the defendant went with her as far as New-York, when the crime that she alleges was committed, was perpetrated while she was in the room at the hotel with him. A short time after the arrival of the prosecutrix at Rutland, Vermont, she discovered that something was wrong, and she then corresponded with her uncle residing in Delaware, and through him Bartin was arrested, and who will have to answer for the offense to the authorities of New-York.

The case has caused a great deal of conversation, and no little doubt upon the minds of many persons, as to the truth of the statements made by the young lady. It resembles in many of its features, the case which created such an intense excitement in this city several years ago, and it will, I presume, be a difficult matter to get a jury to believe, that a young lady could become *enciente*, after being drugged to such a degree as to loose all consciousness.

I have seen several letters written by the young lady, in her correspondence with her uncle upon the subject, and they all evince a high degree of intelligence, modesty and a firm belief in what she utters.

"OLYMPIA" AT BURTON'S THEATER.

At this theater was played last night, for the first time in this city, a five-act play, translated from the French for Mrs. Barrow. It is called "Olympia," and is supposed, as nearly as it is possible to discover, to represent an episode in the life of an actress. Olympia (Mrs. Barrow) is married by a Count Karl de Rudentz (Mr. Fisher), and the Count's friends refuse to recognize the actress as his wife. Unpleasant scenes of various descriptions occur; the Count is separated from his wife for six years. She resolves to return to the stage, and he returns on the night of her reappearance; is arrested and is to be guillotined; then she is arrested and is to be guillotined; then somebody saves them both, and the curtain comes down. This is really all we can make of the plot. The play is trash and beneath serious criticism. Of all the bad five-act plays which have afflicted us of late, this is the worst. It is a heterogeneous mixture of disconnected scenes, and characters who have nothing to do with each other. Scenes by sunlight, moonlight, starlight, twilight and gaslight; Counts, artists, actors, Marquises, actresses, servants, officers, and all other sorts of people, appear and disappear, and nobody can see why or wherefore. The play is made a vehicle for clap-trap of the oldest, baldest and most palpable kind, all relating to the stage and the actor's profession: and, not content with the miserable stuff which so abounds in the original play, the translator has introduced an unlimited amount of spread-eagleism which is if possible, still more out of place, and is interpolated merely to catch the applause of the star-spangled-ites of the Yankee pit, who consider themselves in duty bound to go into spasms at the mere mention of the "American flag." It is a one-man-power, or rather a one-woman-power drama, it being written for the one part, Olympia, and consequently not another character in the piece is worth playing.

It is but justice to Mrs. Barrow to say that she did exceedingly well, and carried off her part with life and vigor, whenever she could get the scene into her own hands. Her efforts were, however, to a very great extent paralyzed by the indifference and imperfectness of the other persons of the company. The men, from Mr. Charles Fisher down to the servants, with one or two exceptions, played as if they had deliberately determined to ruin the piece, by knowing as little as possible of the text, and by playing that little as badly as possible. Miss Stevens and Miss Fanny Brown had parts, and played them most agreeably, and their exertions, with Mrs. Barrow, alone saved the play from universal condemnation. Mrs. Barrow has reason to complain bitterly that her play, bad as it is, was barbarously mutilated by the reprehensible indifference or incapability of Mr. Burton's actors.

AMERICAN VICTORY IN ARKANSAS.—In the municipal election, held a few days ago at Helena, Arkansas, the Americans elected all the city officers by a triumphant majority over a "citizen's" or "independent" ticket.

THE WITCHES OF NEW-YORK..No. IV.

MADAME BRUCE, "THE MYSTERIOUS VAILED LADY."

No. 513 Broome street, near Thompson.

Our reporter expected much from his visit to this lady, and paid more than ordinary attention to the decoration of the external individual, before he proceeded to search out the fair being referred to in her advertisement, which is subjoined:

ASTONISHING TO ALL.—Madame BRUCE, the Mysterious Vailed Lady, can be consulted on all events of life, at No. 513 Broome-st., one door from Thompson. She is a second sight seer, and was born with a natural gift.

Madame Bruce might be a lady of the most transcendent beauty, or she might possess a countenance after the style of Mohanna, the Vailed Prophet; in either case, a clean shirt collar and a little extra polish on the boots would be a touching tribute of respect. Our reporter thought of the stories of the Oriental ladies, so charmingly and compiexly described in "The Arabian Nights' Entertainments," and in some strange way connected Madame Bruce with Eastern associations; he remembered that in Asiatic countries the arts of enchantment are the staple of fashionable female education; that the women imbibe the elements of magic from their wet nurses, and that their power of charming is gradually and surely developed by years and competent instructors, until they are able to go forth into the world and raise the devil on their own hook. Our reporter had pondered these things in his mind until his excited imagination had fully decided that Madame Bruce, the Mysterious Vailed Lady, must be a stray Oriental Princess in reduced circumstances, cruelly thrust from the paternal mansion by the infuriated proprietor, and compelled to seek her fortune in a strange land. He had never seen a princess, and he resolved to treat this one with all respect and loyal veneration; to do this, if possible, without compromising his conscience as a republican and a voter in the Tenth Ward—but to do it, at all hazards. The immense fortune which would undoubtedly be hers in the event of the relenting of her brutal though opulent father, may have suggested the feasibility of a future elopement and a legal marriage, but this speculation was not seriously entertained. Her undoubted great misfortunes had touched his tender heart in an unselfish spot; he would see this suffering princess—he would tender his sympathy. If this was haughtily declined, there would still remain the poor privilege of buying a dose of magic, paying the price in current money, and letting her make her own change. Having matured this disinterested resolve, he proceeded on his journey, wondering as he walked along, whether, in the event of a gracious reception by his princess, it would be more courtly and correct to kneel on both knees, or to make an Oriental cushion of his overcoat and sit down cross-legged on the floor. This knotty point was not settled to his entire satisfaction when he reached that lovely portion of fairy land near the angle of Broome and Thompson streets. The princess had taken up her temporary residence in the tenant house No. 513 Broome, which elegant mansion affords a refuge to about seventeen other families.

Our reporter's ring was answered by a grizzly woman speaking broken French, who admitted him into the hall, heard his request, and called to a shock-headed boy, who was looking over the stairs, to come down and take him in charge. An instant's observation convinced our reporter that the servants of the Princess were not particular in the matter of dirt. The walls were stained, discolored and bedaubed, and the floor had a sufficient thickness of soil for a vegetable-garden; at one end of the hall, indeed, an Irish woman was on her knees, making experimental excavations, possibly with a view to planting early lettuce and peppergrass. A glance at the shock-headed boy showed a peculiarity in his vis visual organs; his eyes, which were black naturally, had evidently suffered in some kind of a fisticuff demonstration, and one of them still showed the marks: it was twice black, naturally and artificially; it had a dual nigritude, and might, perhaps, be called a double-barreled black eye. This pleasant young man conducted our reporter to the top of the first flight of stairs, where he said, "Please stop here a minute," and disappeared into the Princess's room, leaving her devoted slave, our reporter, alone in the hall with two aged wash-tubs and a battered broom.

Then ensued a great shuffling and general pitching about of things in the mysterious room, as if a hurried "clearing up" was in progress. As soon as this stormy rattling of chairs and tables had subsided into a calm, the boy with the eye reappeared, and insinuatingly remarked, "Please to walk in this way." It did please our reporter to walk in the direction pointed out, and he entered the room, where the double-barreled eye spoke again, "Please take a chair." Our reporter looked for the Princess, but perceiving that she was not present, he ventured to sit down. A single glance convinced him that the Princess could have had no opportunity to carry off her jewels from her Eastern home, or that she must have spent the proceeds before she furnished her present domicile. An iron bedstead, a small cooking-stove, four chairs, and a table, on which the breakfast crockery stood unwashed, was the amount of the furniture. A dirty, slatternly young woman of about 23 years, with filthy hands and uncombed hair, and whose clothes looked as if they had been tossed on with pitchfork, seated herself in one of the chairs and commenced conversation. It was 1 o'clock p. m., but she attempted an apology for the unmade bed, the unswept room, the unwashed breakfast dishes, and the untidy appearance of everything. Before she had concluded her fruitless explanation, the boy with the variegated eye suddenly came from a closet which our reporter had not noticed and was unprepared for, and said, in winning tones, "Please to walk in this room," which was done, whereupon the optical youth incontinently vanished.

At last, then, our reporter stood in the presence of royalty, and beheld the wronged Princess of his imagination. He was about to drop on his bended knees to pay his premeditated homage, but a hurried glance at the floor showed that such a course of proceeding would result in the ineffaceable soiling of his best pantaloons; so he stood sturdily erect. Before he suffered his eyes to rest upon the peerless beauty who, he was convinced, stood before him, he took a survey of the regal apartment. An unpainted pine table stood in the corner, a gaudily-painted shade was at the window, and an iron single bedstead upon which the clothes had been hastily "spread up," and two chairs, on one of which sat the enchantress, completed the list. The Princess was attired in deep black, and a thick black veil, reaching from her head to her waist, entirely concealed her features from the beholder. Our reporter still devoutly believed in her royal birth and cruel misfortunes—nor was this belief dissipated until she spoke: but when she called "Pete" to the double-barreled youth with the eye, and gave him a "blowing up" in the most emphatic kind of English for not bringing her pocket handkerchief, then the beautiful Princess of our reporter's imagination vanished into the thinnest kind of air, and there remained only the unromantic reality of a very vulgar woman, in a very dirty dress, and who had a very bad cold in her head. There was still a hope that she might be pretty, and her visitor fervently trusted that she might be compelled to lift her veil to blow her nose, but she didn't do it. Then he made up his mind that she squints and has bad teeth, and thenceforward regarded her with stony indifference. She looked at him closely for a couple of minutes, and then spoke these words—the peculiar pronunciation being probably induced by the cold in her head. The effect was decidedly disenchanting:

"You are a badd who has saw a great beddy chadges add it seebs as if you was goidg to be bore settled in the future—it seebs here like as if you had sobetibes in your life beed very buch cast dowd, but it seebs here like as if you had always got up agaid—It seebs here as if you had saw id your past life sobe lady what you liked very buch add had beed disappointed—it seebs here as if there was two barriages for you, wud id a very short tibe—wud lady seebs here to stadd very dear to you, add you two bay be barried or you bay dot—if you are dot already barried you will be very sood—it seebs here as if you wuidd have a very large fabily—five childred will be all that you will have—you will have a good deal of buddy (money) id your life—sobe of your relatives what you dever have saw will sood die add leave you sobe property—but you will dot be expectidg it add it seebs here as if you would have trouble id getting it, for there will sobe wud else try to get it away frob you—it seebs as if the lady you will barry will dot be too dark coloplexiod, dor yet too light—dot too tall, dor yet very short, dot too large, dor too thid—she thidks a great deal of you, bore thad you do of her,—you have already saw her id the course of your life, add she loves you very buch. There are people about you id your buidess who are dot so buch your frieds as they pretted to be—you are goidg to bake sub chadg id your buidess, it will be a good thidg for you add will cub out buch better thad you expect."

Here she stopped and intimated that she would answer any questions that our reporter desired to ask, and in reply to various interrogatories the following important information was elicited:

"You will be bdg lived, add you will have two wives, add will live beddy years with your first wife."

Our reporter here pronounced himself satisfied, and paid his money, whereupon the ex-Princess instantly screamed "Pete," and the Eye-boy appeared to show the door. Our reporter departed, leaving the mysterious veiled lady shivering on her stool, and exceedingly desirous of an opportunity to use her pocket handkerchief.

THE TENTH WARD KNOW-NOTHINGS.

The dismal flicker of the frost-bitten gas burners on Saturday evening demonstrated that Council No. 5, though preëminent in civil polity, cannot yet control the elements. It was singular to see the haggardness which the hazy halo seemed to throw over the countenances of the sovereigns. Even they were ashamed of this darkness, and to prevent the complete reign of Erebus, six tallow candles were procured, which by the aid of melted puddles of their own substance were stationed about the room.

"Our candles being now all lighted up," Bro. Corson read his minutes; but as he had not given a correct version of the withdrawal of Bro. Griffiths, he was ordered, no one opposing, to correct them so as to conform to the account in THE TRIBUNE. And herein was another of those quiet compliments which our reporter regards with more joy than services of plate or presents of gold. He was indulging in the luxury of this happiness, when Bro. WHEELER arrested his attention with one immense blow of the gavel. Up arose Bro. W. calmly, drew from his pocket deliberately, a document lengthy, which he read gravely. It proved to be an edict from Bro. James M. Miller, the grand and installing Deputy of the City and County of New-York, wherein he states that by reason of having received affidavits showing that the President and Secretary elect were illegally elected and that another officer elected was ineligible, therefore he adds, "by "virtue of my authority I order that Council No. 5, "immediately after opening on Saturday evening next, "proceed to the election of an entire new set of "officers." And, as if fearful of being misunderstood, he further declares: "This order is imperative and "must be obeyed." When the reading was finished, Bro. Wheeler said in substance: "This document is "a piece of unblushing insolence. It speaks of matters not true. It is done without consulting me as "President, and I will take the responsibility, as Gen. "Jackson would say, unless ordered otherwise by the "Council, to pay no attention to it."

With this Bro. Wheeler resumed his seat, and Bro. WAINWRIGHT, a great deal excited, arose and moved that it be sent back for explanation. He said the Pope of Rome had no subjects so ignorant but that they would rebuke such an assumption of power. Bro. MASON opposed this. He thought Bro. Miller would yet be ashamed of what he had done, and in such case it was best to have the paper preserved in the archives of Council No. 5, lest proof should be got up that it was never sent here. He also wanted it to show to all persons who may hereafter join the Order, that they might see at a glance the Democracy, Independence, and entire Equality of American Citizens, as explained and enforced by the great American party. During the time Bro. Mason occupied the floor, he was constantly interrupted by Bro. Van Duser, who acknowledged that he was one of the persons who had been instrumental in getting up the troublesome edict. He and Bro. M. indulged freely in such epithets as "sneak," "backbiter," "Black Republicans," "oracle," "shysters," and other careless expressions of friendship, until finally Bro. Mason got fatigued and sat down. Bro. Wainwright accepted his proposition. Whereupon Bro. Van Duser moved, as a substitute, that the Council proceed to obey the mandate of Bro. Miller. Bro. Rowley seconded the motion. Bro. Mason then moved to lay the whole subject on the table. Whew!—blood and fury—what swearing! As the motion was not debatable, this seemed to be the only way to ease themselves. On taking the question, it was decided in the affirmative by 34 yeas to 17 nays.

At this point our reporter had the curiosity to ask Bro. Corson about the election which had caused all the rumpus. As this brother was just then anxious to be making a speech he passed over his book of minutes. From these it appeared that the Van Duser and Rowley party, after a severe rally, at the election two weeks since, had only seventeen voters, although by some hocus-pocus they contrived to poll 29 votes for Bro. Rowley as Treasurer. It also appeared that Bro. Wheeler detected this extraordinary expansion and ordered a count. That after the count their vote fell down to the identical seventeen. Taking this then as the strength of their "crowd," and putting it by the side of their own statement, that the rest are "a set of d—d Black Republicans," and it does seem as though it was not too much to hope that Council No. 5, like the cub of a bear,

"Whelp'd without form until the dam,
Hath lick'd it into shape and frame,"

may, after the *licking* process of another general election, be brought to some sort of comeliness.

The vote on laying the matter on the table was so decisive that nothing remained for either side but to fight. The officers elect could not be installed because Bro. James M. Miller would not do it. Their opponents could not go into a new election because their force was only 17. Neither party could get on far, and hence by unanimous consent they went into a general wrangle. It was perhaps one of the most ferocious rows ever indulged in. A looker-on would have supposed that although tobacco and profanity is natural to Council No. 5, such a scene as this could not be improvised without the additional luxury of gin. Bro. Wheeler was out of the chair and in the chair—on the floor and in the ante-room, dodging around in wild frenzy. Bro. Corson and Bro. Wainright each howled for order, but as Bro. Willis was in the chair he sided with Bro. Van Duser and let matters slide. At length Bro. Wheeler reclaimed his seat and summarily released the brotherhood. His object was, if they must fight, to give them a chance. But no fight came. Loud talkers, like the teat-pig, though noisiest are blessed with the least pluck of the whole litter. After a few pounds of curses the brothers left the room and the residue of their candles to the care of the sexton.

COLD WEATHER.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

STOCKPORT, Wayne Co., Pa., Jan. 24, 1857.

The thermometer at this place for two hours (from 6 to 8 a. m.) stood 32 deg. below zero, being 4 deg. colder than at any previous time during the past fifty years, with the exception of January 4, 1841, when the mercury at this place sank to 40 deg. below zero. This was three days previous to the great flood on the Delaware, of January, 1841.

P. S.—10 a. m., 13 deg. below zero, with sun shining on the glass.

The Oswego Times of Thursday says that the official register kept at that place, for the United States Topographical Bureau, shows the water of Lake Ontario to be eight inches above low water mark, and one foot four inches lower than at this period last year.

FROM PHILADELPHIA.

THE NEW GRAND OPERA HOUSE.

THE GREAT INAUGURATION BALL.

From Our Special Correspondent.

PHILADELPHIA, Monday, Jan. 26, 1857.

It is now about sixteen years since the project of erecting a grand opera house in Philadelphia was agitated. The time was unpropitious, as well on account of the immaturity of that city in population, wealth and musical culture, as of the financial embarrassments commencing in 1857, and which had then (in 1840) prostrated credit and enterprise all over the country. In face, however, of these disadvantages, our Quaker neighbors were the first community in America to entertain seriously the scheme of a lyrical and dramatic institution comparable in all points to the largest and most complete in Europe, and to this end the attempt so far prospered that an adequate lot was secured, and subscriptions for the building made to the amount of about two hundred thousand dollars.

At this point, owing to the difficulties referred to, the effort was abandoned. To the architectural, economical, moral and artistic features of that enterprise, however, is due whatever has since been achieved in the same direction in our City of New-York and elsewhere in the United States.

The Philadelphia Academy of Music, which is inaugurated to night by the greatest ball ever given in the city, is a most honorable approximation to the reality of the original project which I have just mentioned. The Academy faces eastward on Broad street—a noble avenue one hundred and twenty feet wide, bisecting the old city-plot between the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers, at the distance of about a mile from each. The northern flank of the house is on Locust street, and the southern on ground reserved for the purpose, so as to insulate it by a court of adequate width. Chestnut street, where fashionable shops, and Walnut, where fashionable dwellings, predominate, are respectively only seven and five hundred feet distant. The building is one hundred and forty feet front, one hundred and fifty feet in the rear, and two hundred and thirty-eight feet deep. The material of the first story is brown stone, the superior walls of the finest pressed brick, the cornice of iron, sanded to correspond with the basement, and the roof of plates of galvanized iron. The style of architecture is simple and imposing, and judiciously adapted to the mixed material. The front has five high arched doors extending along a projection of ninety feet, and one grand window at each extremity. Over the doors is a solid stone balcony. The openings of the second story—the external appearance of the house being only two stories—correspond with those of the first. On the side streets, there are thirteen similar openings to each story, five of them being doors in the first, protected also by a stone balcony. The hight of the building is apparently about seventy feet. It is altogether exceedingly well conceived.

Access to the interior is provided by five doors, each ten feet wide on the Broad-street front, and an equal number on each side street, making the total openings in the clear 150 feet—distributing the audience at its exits in different directions, and insuring the clearing of a full house in a very few minutes. The front doors extend along a line of 73 feet, giving admission to a vestibule of the same length and ten feet deep. At each side of the vestibule are ticket-offices, communicating respectively with the managers' and directors' rooms, about 25 feet square, which occupy the two front corners of the building. These rooms are provided with fire-proofs of the best description, and have private doors communicating with other departments of the building. A ticket-office on Locust street, for the upper tiers of boxes, also opens directly into the manager's room, thus bringing two of the receivers under his immediate supervision.

Passing through the front vestibule by arched doors, corresponding in number and size with those of the exterior, the grand vestibule is reached—a noble apartment, ninety feet wide and thirty feet deep. It is flanked by two grand stairways, each thirteen feet wide, and rising right and left parallel to the front of the house. The inner wall of this hall is pierced by doors opposite to those in front, also corresponding in proportions with them. Between the doors are pilasters. These and the walls are frescoed in imitation of various fine marbles, and the ceiling is relieved by deep and enriched panels. The newel-posts of the stairways are very massive, of carved walnut, forming the base of stands of the same material, which support elegant gilt candelabras, topped by bronze Mercuries. A handsome chandelier decorates the center of the hall. Proceeding inward on the same floor the lobby of the parquet circle is entered, which compasses the auditorium. It is thirteen feet wide, except at the extremities, where it approaches the stage department, narrowing there to nine feet. On one side of the house this lobby communicates with a ladies' retiring-room, and on the other with a gentlemen's. A handsome elliptical staircase affords interior communication with the first and second tiers of boxes, and under the grand front stairways access is had to the gentlemen's refreshment room in the basement, which is eighty by forty feet.

From the lobby, thus described, admission is had to the parquet-circle, and to the parquet, by several doors and corresponding aisles at convenient distances. The lobbies of the other tiers are of the same proportions as the lower. That of the next or principal floor connects with the dress-circle, and on the front with the *Foyer* or grand saloon. This is a very beautiful apartment both in proportions and style. It is over the entrance and grand vestibules, 90 feet long and 40 feet wide, with a groined ceiling 35 feet high. It is lighted by five great arched casement windows 16 feet wide each over the front doors, and opening upon the stone balcony above described. At each extremity it communicates with large and elegant lounging or refreshment rooms, and also with the main stairways. Throughout its length on both sides are sixteen Roman Ionic columns in full relief upon pilasters and surmounted by ornate entablature. Ten brilliant glass chandeliers depend from the spring of the arches in the ceiling, and between the arched doors at either extremity are very large mirrors. The walls of this sumptuous room are white, but will be frescoed when sufficiently seasoned. On the same floor, and pertaining to the dress-circle lobby are ladies' and gentlemen's private retiring-rooms, also of ample dimensions. Each upper story is similarly provided. These suites of rooms with their ante-rooms are on the north and south sides of the building—the ante-rooms having large high doors corresponding with the side windows—the doors when shut serving to exclude perfectly the noise of the street, or when open in Summer to admit the outer air. At each extremity of the lobbies adjacent to the stage department, and at each angle of them adjacent to the front of the house are stairways (other than those already mentioned) seven feet wide. These make in all seven stairways in the audience department of about 50 feet gross width, distributed around its entire periphery, and all at their respective bases within 10 or 18 feet of the exit doors. The steps of the stairs are heavy ash plank, the balusters oak, and the rails