

THE LATEST NEWS.

IMPORTANT FROM NICARAGUA.

The Reported Retreat of Col. Lockridge from Castillo.

San Juan River in the Hands of the Costa Ricans.

FRIGHTFUL STEAMBOAT EXPLOSION.

SIXTY LIVES LOST.

So, So, So.

WASHINGTON, April 15, 1857.

The steamship Isabel arrived at Charleston on Sunday night, bringing Havana and Key West dates to the 10th instant.

The steamship Tennessee, from Aspinwall via San Juan, had arrived at Key West, bringing very important news from Nicaragua.

Colonel Lockridge, who at last accounts was threatening to attack Castillo, had abandoned the intention and retreated from his position, leaving the whole of the San Juan river in complete possession of the Costa Ricans.

A dreadful explosion had occurred on board the old transatlantic steamer J. N. Scott, and sixty lives (slabsters) are reported to have been lost.

The Tennessee had a number of Lockridge's command on board, including about fifty sick and wounded.

The Tennessee would sail from Key West on the evening of the 10th for New York, where she may be expected to-day or to-morrow.

Among the arrivals at Havana were, on the 8th, the brig Argos, from Boston, Yankee Blade, from Portland, and schooner E. Curtis, from Boston; 9th, barks N. Place and Sophia, from New York; Abyla, from Portland, and brig E. A. Reed, New York, and Cuba, from Portland.

Affairs at Washington.

THE UNION NEWSPAPER—IS THERE TO BE AN ORGAN?—THE HONDURAS INTER-OCEANIC ROUTE—BIDS FOR THE STEAM REVENUE CUTTER, ETC.

WASHINGTON, April 14, 1857.

To-morrow the Union, which has been grinding out most delictful music for a week past without a head, takes its new master and Mr. Harris makes his bow to the democracy. There is a slight difference in the reported observations of Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Harris as to whether the Union is the organ or not—Mr. Buchanan thinks it is not, while Mr. H. is decidedly of opinion that it is. Who shall decide this great question?

The sale of the paper by Wendell, McGuire & Co. to Harris, purports to be an out and out sale, and separation from any printing contracts or other paper arrangements, and the new concern is ostensibly to stand upon the merits of the newspaper and upon the support of executive patronage. Unfortunately for public conviction on this subject the thing is overdone. Everybody knows that the paper is a losing concern, and that the executive printing must be done by the printer of one of the two houses of Congress. So if the paper lives there must be a leak into its coffers somewhere, and the knowing ones here state that Wendell is to be the source of supply.

The new Minister from Honduras was presented to the President yesterday by Mr. Appleton, Assistant Secretary of State. The chief purpose of his mission here at this time is the celebration of a convention with our government similar to that made with England and France for the centrality of the Honduras railway across the isthmus. Mr. Glidden, of Egyptian fame, goes out as resident superintendent of the construction, and Mr. Grant wine as engineer. The latter gentleman was very efficient in the preliminary works of the Panama Railroad.

To-day the bids were opened at the Treasury Department for the construction of the new steam revenue cutter for New York. The following propositions were made:—

E. Lupton.....\$140,000	J. A. Westervelt...\$122,500
Vaughn & Lynn.... 110,000	Thos. Collyer..... 131,725
Page & Allen..... 150,000	Thos. Stack..... 136,750
J. B. Steers..... 138,000	T. D. Erskine..... 130,000
A. C. Bell..... 129,000	J. D. Parsy..... 144,900
F. Harrington..... 140,000	W. H. Webb (2d). No price.
W. H. Webb..... No price.	J. W. Griffin..... 150,000
A. Patterson..... 84,940	

Many of the models were beautiful specimens of naval architecture, but those from New York take the palm. It was admitted by outsiders to-day that New York would get the contract.

THE GENERAL NEWSPAPER DESPATCH.

THE NEW GRANADA DIFFICULTY—STRINGENT MEASURES IN CONTEMPLATION—FIRE AT GEORGETOWN—NAVAL COURTS OF INQUIRY, ETC.

WASHINGTON, April 14, 1857.

The administration have been officially advised by Messrs. Morse and Bow in of their unsuccessful efforts to treat with the government of New Granada. The affairs of the isthmus were to-day a matter of Cabinet consultation, and excluded all other subjects. Our government is resolved that American rights in that quarter shall be respected. It will shortly send thither four or five vessels with such instructions to the commanders as will, it is believed, consummate the object and lead to the settlement of the existing difficulties. The administration are determined to take a decided stand.

The third Naval Court of Inquiry will meet next Monday. It is composed of Captains Kearney, Newton and Storer; neither of whom was promoted by the late retiring Board.

Three houses on West street, Georgetown, including that of Commodore Cassin, were destroyed by fire this afternoon, and another considerably damaged; loss \$30,000. The fire is the most destructive that has occurred in Georgetown for thirty years.

W. A. Harris' salutatory as editor and proprietor of the Union appears in that journal this morning. He says he brings to the duties of his position considerable experience in editorial service, and no small share of zeal and faith and devotion to the great principles of the democratic party. Colonel Carter, of Pennsylvania, has been retained as assistant editor. The reports that Edmund Burke and others were engaged is altogether untrue.

The Secretary of the Navy, owing to a pressure of other business, has not acted on the findings in the four cases decided by the Naval Court of Inquiry. The seals are not even broken.

Affairs at Albany.

THE NEW LICENSE LAW—THE POLICE AND HARBOR MASTER APPOINTMENTS—CONDUCT OF THE DISAPPOINTED APPLICANTS.

ALBANY, April 15, 1857.

The Senate, in executive session, confirmed, unanimously, James Bowen, of Westchester, as Police Commissioner; also confirmed all the Brooklyn appointees. The others were not acted upon.

There was reason to expect that the Legislature would finally adjourn some time during the night. The members have been laboring with the greatest industry to accomplish it. This morning, however, the lobby made a determined stand against it, pressed on all the bills of a private character yet behind, and it now seems as if the separation cannot hardly take place before Thursday night or Friday morning. The members are all paid off, and several of them have returned to their homes, not believing that they are compelled to remain here and work for the lobby without any pay.

The Liquor License bill has finally passed into the executive chamber. It came up in the Senate from the House this morning with several amendments, one of which was striking out the restriction of licensing grocery stores. Mr. Smith, of Brooklyn, wished to restore that restriction, and the Senate so agreed. But after discussing other points of the bill, Mr. Briggs concluded it was best to agree with the House amendments rather than send it back, when it might fall between the two houses. The license has been reduced to twenty dollars as the minimum, and the number of petitions to twenty instead of thirty. The judiciary of the county are to appoint commissioners of excise, if they choose, upon the necessary application. So "free trade in rum" is fairly abolished.

Great disappointment rests upon the brow of Mr. James Kelly, of New York. From the first conception of the police bill he had the assurance of the regency here that he should be one of the commissioners. It was so understood after the bill passed the House. When in the committee of the Senate he began to think there was a "nigger in the fence," and the result shows that he was not mistaken. The Know Nothing vote in the Senate, and the influence of the committee on cities and villages, two of whom are Know Nothings, was necessary to secure its passage. Mr. Kelly will very soon learn how much reason he had to rely upon the oft repeated promises of the regency. Among all the disappointments occasioned by the faithlessness of political friends, this exceeds anything that has occurred this winter. Mr. Cholwell is a Know Nothing, umbrella merchant of Nassau street.

When the list of harbor masters and port wardens were announced there was the most terrible onslaught upon the leaders you ever witnessed; no epithet was too strong to be applied to them. Some fifty disappointed New Yorkers and a couple dozen Brooklynites, who thought they were on the side and in favor of the Capital, made things howl most awfully in and about the drinking shop of Congress Hall. An outsider would really think that your New York Pewter Meg was transferred to the opposite side of the street from the Capital. Vengeance loud, long and determined was threatened by those disappointed pillars of the great republican party. What they can accomplish remains to be seen.