

Letter from New York.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

BUCHANAN AND THE OFFICE-SEEKERS.

Servile Insurrection in the South.

SOUTHERN COMMERCIAL CONVENTION.

The Nicaragua Sympathizers in New York.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

New York, Dec. 20th, 1856.

It is said that the nation whose annals are uninteresting is happy. By that rule, it must be admitted that the New Yorkers have enjoyed unusual felicity during the last fortnight, for there has been nothing historically "stunning" in that period of time, to supply the historian with a theme. The election being over, and the thermometer only a little above zero, we contrive to keep cool.

Full Election Returns.

Full election returns, officially canvassed, are now at hand, from all the States, except California, and the result gives Buchanan the following popular vote: In the Free States, 1,212,601; in the Slave States, 638,559; total, 1,850,960, and Electoral votes 174. Fremont's vote is as follows: Free States, 1,333,506, (or 120,705 over Buchanan); Slave States, 1,247; total, 1,334,533, or 516,497 over Fremont in the Union; Electoral votes 114. Fillmore's vote in the Free States was 387,843; in the Slave States, 438,117, and in the Union 835,999; Electoral vote 8. The plurality of Fremont and Fillmore together over Buchanan is 339,533.

Coleman's suit and the "Exiles" at New York.

Maloney's suit against Wm. T. Coleman was brought up in the Supreme Court here on Thursday, on motion to strike out certain parts of the complaint as irrelevant and redundant. Mr. O'Connor appeared as Mr. Coleman's counsel. The exiles keep pretty quiet at present.

Ticket Swindlers in New York.

The *Exiles* may do some service to miners and others coming this way, with the intention of returning to California, by cautioning them against the ticket swindlers who are apt to get hold of them in New York. Let them remember that the P. M. S. S. Company has but one office for the sale of tickets, and that is on the corner of West and Warren streets, on the North river. If they buy, elsewhere, under any circumstances whatever, they are sure of being plundered. The company has done its utmost to caution and protect passengers, but in spite of its endeavors people get swindled. Tickets cannot be denied to those who pay for them, the sharpers always taking care to send persons for them who are unknown at the office. In this way, these rogues get possession of steerage and second cabin tickets, which they dispose of to the unwary at first cabin prices. Such is their impudence, that the runners for these bogus ticket offices have frequently enticed passengers away from the very office of the company, (with some plausible pretext) and have then palmed off their tickets on them. Policemen are kept at the door of the company's office, but to little purpose. For what reliance can be placed on policemen who are all politicians? One of the vendors of bogus tickets was elected to be a Common Councilman of this great city. It would take a hardy policeman, I reckon to interfere with his legitimate business. A Mr. Lapeley has brought suit against one of these fellows for a ticket swindle perpetrated on him in January last. It has only now come to trial, and probably Mr. Lapeley will recover nothing, although a verdict has been rendered in his favor.

The Weather and Streets of New York.

For the last few days we have had intensely cold weather; to-day it is warm and rainy. The streets are in a shocking condition—completely impassible in some of the busiest localities. This is the result of the late municipal contest. Our Irish fellow citizens were brought here in large numbers to elect the Democratic ticket, and the last that could be done was to keep those incorruptible electors in bread and whisky for their pains. Consequently some of the principal streets were ploughed up to afford them a job, and so they are likely to remain during the winter. It reminds one of the grading of the San Francisco streets in '32 and '33.

Mr. Buchanan and the Office-Seekers.

The day before the late election thousands of people looked forward to the possible success of Mr. Buchanan, as to a crisis to be immediately succeeded by all the horrors of a Democratic saturnalia. There was a confused and unreasoned expectation that all our Senators and Representatives in Congress would be instantly goaded, tomahawked or knocked on the head, Mr. Greeley hanged to a lamp-post in the Park, and the *Tribune* office sacked and burned to the ground—all under the supervision and direction of Colonel Preston S. Brooks, of South Carolina, and Capt. Rynders, of the Empire Club. But the election has taken place, and it has not been succeeded by any dreadful event. People go to bed and snore as comfortably as ever, and eat with as good an appetite; the *Tribune* still appears and "shrieks" as before for bleeding Kansas, and Capt. Rynders has not fired his ten-pounder bang into the editorial room—as yet. So we have all agreed that we can live through another four years at any rate. The revolution has begun. A new President like a new King of England always starts with a certain degree of popularity, the people liking fair play and wishing to give him a chance. Mr. Buchanan is not condemned in advance by those who voted the Republican or American tickets, whatever politicians may desire; and he may yet become the most popular President we ever had. Indeed, it lies with him in a great measure to prolong the existence of Democratic ascendancy in the Union. Had Mr. Pierce's term lasted five instead of four years, Democracy would have been dead as Abraham, and buried out of sight before it was over.

Whelan is the Mecca of politicians at this time. Every faithful Democrat who expects to reach the heaven of office, makes a pilgrimage thither, to the great profit of the railway companies, and of the inn-keepers and lager-beer vendors of Lancaster. In that little retired city, erst so quiet and unfrequented, there is an unceasing ebb and flow of strange, sharp, eager faces,—very different from the broad, stolid and comfortable looking frontispieces of the Pennsylvania Dutchman of that ilk.

Servile Insurrection in the South.

The Southern States have been unpleasantly agitated by the discovery of insurrectionary plots among the slaves in certain localities, and rumor, gaining credit from fear, has spread abroad the idea that there was a general or wide spread conspiracy extending through most of the Slave States. Slave society is always exposed to the danger of insurrection, but it is still more liable to unfounded panics. Plots, or supposed plots, have been discovered in Louisiana, South Carolina, Kentucky and Virginia. In Tennessee there was undoubtedly an insurrectionary movement, extending through the region from Memphis, through Clarksville and Dover, on the Cumberland River. At the iron works owned by Senator Bell, of Tennessee, some sixty slaves were accused of participation in this movement, and nine of them were hanged—four by sentence of a Court and five by a mob. A white man, said to have been disguised as a negro, was sentenced to receive nine hundred lashes, and died under the infliction. Nineteen slaves had been hanged at Dover, not for any overt act, but for supposed insurrectionary designs. A great many slaves have been imprisoned on suspicion. In Virginia, the county of Montgomery and the neighborhood of Williamsburgh have been alarmed with expectations of an outbreak. The authorities of Alexandria telegraphed, on Sunday last, to Governor Wise, for arms to suppress an expected insurrection. In this case, as in many others, there appears to have been a groundless panic.

It has been stated that the negroes were under the impression that "Fremont, with a Northern army," was coming to liberate them, and many of the Southern papers attribute the rising entirely to the agitation against the extension of slavery, which prevailed at the North. It is more likely that the cause may be found in the exaggerated misrepresentations of the designs of the Republican party, with which the columns of these very papers teemed, and which naturally became the subject of conversation among the white people, within hearing of the negroes. Every Southern newspaper, during the whole Presidential contest, did its utmost to persuade its readers that the Republicans intended to abolish slavery by force, if they had the power, and could not succeed any other way.

Kansas quieted—Judge Lecompte removed.

There is reason to hope that the Kansas troubles are done and over once for all. We hear of no more battles and sieges, marching and counter-marching, in that Territory, and Gov. Geary is receiving credit for his administrative ability and fairness from both Free-soilers and Border Ruffians. Property in Lawrence is said to be worth fifty per cent. more than it would bring before his administration of affairs. It is expected to improve another fifty after the removal of Judge Lecompte, who has been turned out at large by Franklin Pierce, and replaced by a respectable man named Harrison. Twenty-one of the prisoners at Lecompte had escaped by digging under the foundation of the building in which they were confined. About fifty of the remaining prisoners, says the St. Louis Democrat, are being tried by Judge Catell at Tecumseh. Governor Geary would not permit the *ball and chain* to be fastened on the limbs of persons convicted of offences within the Territory. Judge Lecompte had threatened to have the Governor arrested for contempt, but had thought better of it. His Excellency the ex-Mayor of San Francisco is considered quite a good looking man in Kansas. The following from the pen of a susceptible Free-soiler appeared in the N. Y. *Tribune* recently:

I saw Geary this morning, and am quite charmed with him. He is the best-looking man I have met, and I cannot but think him sincere. At all events, it seems to me ungenerous to condemn him in advance. "Give the devil his due." If the Governor is a "devil," he is quite an elegant gentleman. I don't know why I thought him a gray-headed old man. I perhaps his name conveys that idea. But, to my surprise, I found him quite an Apollo—six feet high at least, faultlessly formed, a very handsome face, jet black eyes, straight hair, fine whiskers and mustache—in short, just the sort of man to win the love of the ladies. No wonder the Lawrence girls have invited him to a Thanksgiving dinner next Thursday. My dear friend, depend upon it Geary is doing well. He has not, it is true, done all we can wish; but he has done a deal more than the other side have wished, I can assure you.

No effort has been made to recover the State prisoners, escaped. The land sales were progressing quietly, thanks to Governor Geary. Dr. Gibson, the Governor's private secretary, lately of California (?), had been seriously injured by a fall from a carriage.

The bogus Territorial Legislature, recently elected, meets in Leecompton early next month. Governor Geary is expected to do all he can to have the most obnoxious enactment repealed.

The free State Legislature, elected by the people, meets about the same time in Topeka. Interference by the federal troops, or his Excellency, Gov. Geary, is not expected by many of our people. Governor Robinson and Lieutenant-Governor Roberts are both now in Kansas, and early in January they will be at Topeka, ready to act in their official capacity.

Southern Commercial Convention—The Slave Trade.

The Southern Commercial Convention lately in session at Savannah, Georgia, broke up on the 12th, and will meet again in Knoxville, Tennessee, next August. It is a pity so much time should be wasted in unprofitable discussions. Commerce, as every practical man knows, is not built up so, and lines of steamers which will never be established and sustained by "resolutions;" they will soon follow a genuine demand for them. The Convention refused to consider a resolution in favor of reviving the Slave Trade by a vote of 67 against 16; and the announcement is reported as having been

adopted unanimously.

Resolved, 1st, That in the opinion of this Convention, the Federal Government possesses no constitutional power to construct a railroad to the Pacific Ocean.

Resolutions were passed in favor of a railroad to the Pacific, by way of El Paso, or along or near the 32d degree of North latitude, to be constructed and incorporated under the authority of State and Territorial Legislatures; the means of its construction to be derived from individual, corporate and State constitutions, together with such aid as may be obtained from grants of the public domain, postal and military contracts, or any other service which may be lawfully rendered to the Federal Government by the said company. This is the opinion of the Southern Commercial Convention on the subject which interests California so much. Other resolutions were passed, one of them in favor of the "Weekly Ferry Line of Steamships, of 20,000 tons each," between Milford Haven and Chesapeake Bay, projected some time ago by Col. Dudley Mann, in a pamphlet. Our Southern brethren have grand ideas.

A letter from Senator Toombs was read at the Convention. He advises the Southern States to encourage direct trade with Europe by the imposition of a heavy State tax on the sale of "all goods, wares and merchandise offered for sale within the State other than those which shall be imported direct from foreign countries." This is a brilliant idea of the Senator, but it labors under the difficulty of being under the difficulty of being unconstitutional and therefore impracticable. There is a provision of the Federal compact which declares that "no preference shall be given by any regulations of commerce to the ports of one State over those of another."

The General Assembly of South Carolina has virtually ignored the ridiculous and shameless proposition made by Governor Adams, in his opening address, favorable to the re-opening of the slave trade. The subject was referred to a committee with permission to report at a future time.

Nicaragua—Walker's Sympathizers.

The news of Walker's disaster in Nicaragua was received here at first by telegraph, via New Orleans. Coming through that centre of filibusterism, they were of course represented as victories, but we are all so accustomed to look for lying in certain quarters and to expect just the contrary of what is reported, that if there had been any filibuster stock before the Board of Brokers it would have gone down 50 per cent. at once. Consequently, no one was surprised when it was afterwards discovered that the "President of Nicaragua, Lower California and Somers" was on board a boat on the lake and out of danger, while one of his "Generals" was being besieged by the enemy and in danger of being cut to pieces.

A meeting was held a few nights ago preparatory to the arrangement of a mass meeting in the Tabernacle in aid of the emaciated American innocents in Nicaragua. There were present a very large number of very distinguished Generals and other dignitaries of Walker's crusade, and also Tom Halcide, the player, T. F. Meagher, (the illustrious "Exile of Erin," referred to in the song.) Charley Morgan, and Capt. Rynders. Walker's two Ambassadors, Messrs. Oaksmith and Heiss, (neither of whom is recognized by the old stickler Marcy,) honored the meeting with their diplomatic presence. Oaksmith, having been a clerk in a store here, is a more practical man than the other gentlemen who spoke. He said that with regard to the Northern States it was "no use knocking at the door," there was no sympathy for the cause here; they must try and get some men and \$20,000 at the South, or Walker was a goner and no mistake. General Dick Wheat begged leave to differ with His Excellency. He allowed that the Northern blood was cold, he knew it, but when once boiled up to the right pitch it kept a-boiling a—long time. He generously proposed that we should one and all, without any invidious and sectional distinctions, take up arms and fly to the support of President Walker. Of this distinguished potentate the General spoke with enthusiasm. "I saw him," he said, "when he drew the words of love from a Virginia mother's lips, (?) and I know that mixed with his hot Southern blood is the pure blood of Scotland. I know his spirit—know that he will never give up. Never will his foot be lifted from that sod unless it be victorious. He will establish a noble republic here; he will enfranchise and civilize a people before enslaved, or nobly fall a sacrifice to a glorious cause. The question is, will we support him or will we not?" [Voices—"We will," "we will,"]

A number of speeches were made, chiefly remarkable for rude energy of language. One gentleman was so impolite as to call our illustrious President "a white-livered, dough-faced, small-potato Jackson!"

It was finally resolved that a committee should be appointed, with power to receive contributions in money, clothing and provisions from patriotic individuals overburthened with means and not inconvenienced with an over-allowance of brains.

Filibustering in Congress.

I see that Mr. Walker of Alabama has been Quixotic enough to take up the defence of his namesake before Congress. Wheeler, late American Minister to the Filibusters, has also been endeavoring to get a bill passed authorizing the Treasury to refund certain advances said to have been made to "distressed American citizens" in Nicaragua. This is humbug. If it should pass there would be no end to these claims, and about three-fourths of the money so obtained would go into the "Treasury of Nicaragua."

Great complaints have been made by many of the passengers from California by the Nicaragua route of ill-treatment on the line.

A telegraphic dispatch from St. Louis states that "Col." Titus, with a hundred border-ruffians from Kansas are in that city en route for Nicaragua.

Walker and the Chamorro Family.

An anonymous writer in the *Tribune* has published an account of Walker's outrageous treatment of the Chamorro family—of whose hacienda, Las Mercedes, confiscated by the operation of one of his fantastical decrees, Mr. F. Soul became the purchaser, some time since. The wife of Don Dionisio Chamorro was outraged and abused by the gang who surprised Granada under Walker, and died, as it is intimated, of grief.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

The clipper ship *Ass Eldridge*, of Boston, which is on the berth here for California, was named after the lamented Capt. Ass Eldridge, who commanded the ill-fated *Pacific*. His port ornaments the bows of the ship, and a very handsome portrait of him is painted in one of the panels of the after cabin. The ship is a noble one. Her tonnage is 1138 register. A very handsome suit of flags was presented to her by several merchants and other gentlemen of New York, who desired, in this manner, to show their regard for the memory of Capt. Eldridge.

Gen. Paex, formerly President of Venezuela, and a number of *señoritos* patriots, expelled from that country by Monagas, are now in New York, organizing a filibustering expedition, for their own restoration to power. The new steamship *Daniel Webster*, owned by Vanderbilt, is or was to be engaged by this party, to transport them and their munitions of war and offence, to the port on which they were to make a descent. Secretary Marcy, however, it is said, sets his face against any more expeditions of the Walker sort. The Government can afford to be extremely virtuous in this case, because Venezuela is not, at present, within the circle of countries on which the progressive democracy have looked with an eye of covetousness.

The Supreme Court of North Carolina has decided that persons of the Universalist denomination in religion are not competent to testify in the Courts of that State.

The United States Marine Code appears to be singularly defective in regard to criminal offences. One peculiarity is, that an assault with intent to kill is punished with three years imprisonment if death ensue; but if not, then three years imprisonment and hard labor!

L. D. Campbell, the well known representative of the Dayton district (Ohio.) recently asserted that there was but one "nigger vote" cast in his district at the late election, and that was cast for his Democratic opponent, Mr. Vallandigham. This gentleman is very indignant at the dark aspersion, and rushing into print, has pronounced "the whole statement an unequalled falsehood." He asserts that more than twenty "niggers" voted for Mr. Campbell, who was elected by just nineteen votes.

Thalberg had a very profitable "season" here. He is now in Washington. In New York and Philadelphia he gave free concerts to the children of the public schools.

The trial of Baker (for the murder of Bill Poole) has resulted as expected in the failure of the jury to agree upon a verdict. It is expected that the prisoner will be released on bail. The jury stood six for acquittal and six for manslaughter in the third degree.

The Rev. Dudley Tyng, who sometimes since resigned the cure of the Church of the Epiphany in Philadelphia in consequence of his congregation having disapproved of his celebrated Fremont sermon, delivered last summer, has rented a hall and now preaches every Sunday to the largest congregation which assemble in that city. Persecution has made him one of the most popular Episcopal clergymen in the United States. Political sermons, by the way, are still kept up in some of the pulpits. Henry Ward Beecher's is one.

One of the boats belonging to the wrecked steamer *Lyoness* has been picked up at sea. It was found to be well filled with provisions, and contained two chronometers and about \$500 in silver coin. There was no person in the boat, and it is probable that the crew had previously been taken out by some vessel. Probably the weather was too rough at the time to hoist the boat on board.

The number of prisoners escaped from the penal colony of Cayenne, at present in New York, is twenty-seven. Two died after arriving in Dutch Guiana, being, as the refugees state, refused assistance by the Dutch authorities. One of these was Pianori, the man who attempted to assassinate Louis Napoleon—which, perhaps, accounts for the indifference of the said authorities.

The new cent authorized to be coined by this Congress has made its appearance as a specimen, although not yet issued from the mint. It is about the circumference of a ten cent piece, but thicker, and looks like pewter. On one side is an eagle *colored*, and the legend "United States of America, 1856;" on the other is a wreath (supposed to represent some of the agricultural productions of the country), and the legend "one cent."