# OUR DANGEROUS SEWERS.

What the Engineer of Sewer Construction Says.

Whole Sections on Line of Water Courses Have Settled, Carrying Down Houses and Other Buildings.

DIAGRAM OF THE IMPROVED SEWER SYSTEM.

One Hundred Miles of Old Sewers Little Better Than Stagnant Cesspools.

A New System of Collective Sewers, Two and a Half Miles on the North River and Three and a Quarter Miles on the East River, to Render All the City Below Canal Street Pure and Free from Inunda-

tions-Description of This Sewer.

Underground Drainage in the Uptown Districts.

Having already devoted considerable space in the HERALD to an exposure of the dangerous conlition of the sewers of the city in a sanitary point of view, it may not be out of place to again refer to the subject. Previous articles covered the inestigations of Dr. Stiles and Engineer Ingram, of the Board of Health, and the reporter of the HERALD, and their publication produced a profound sation among property owners and the officials of the city. Still the subject is not exhausted, and the object of the present article is to exhibit the work performed by the Chief Engineer of the Sewer Department with a view to the correction of abuses caused by the imperfect construction of old sewers. The Health authorities bear testimony to the fact that the present Department of Public Works is energetically at work reforming the sewer system. With a view of getting an idea of the extent of the labor of the Public Works Department upon the sewers a reporter of the HERALD called upon Engineer Stevenson Towle, who has enarge of sewers, and in a conversation with him that gentleman gave the following statement of

the work performed by his department:—
Under the Department of Public works the surveys of the old system of sewers, commenced with the view of remedying their defects, have progressed steadily and satisfactorily during the past year. A large number of the old sewers built before 1840 were

year. A large number of the old sewers built belore 1840 were

WITHOUT MANHOLES
or any other way of entering them from the surface, and in many instances no maps or records
could be found to give any idea of their construction. The streets had, therefore, to be excavated
and the sewers broken into before an examination
could be made to ascertain their location, condition and requirements. In this way the causes of
many cases of obstruction have been found and removed. Under the old mode of construction the
sewerage was extended without regard to any system or regularity as to sizes. Sewers were built
piecemeal as necessity required, of all shapes and
sizes, and careful study is required before a comprehensive plan of relief can be made. Over
one hundred miles of old sewers
have been surveyed, and a very large proportion
found to be little better than elongated cesspools
filled with soiled deposit, oftentimes of the most
offensive kind and the accumulation of years. Instead of being conduits for the discharge of the
refuse of dweilings, these sewers were in reality
but receptacles for it, and rather than being aids
to health, were fruitful sources of sickness and
disease. From a careful examination of the old
sewers. I am convinced that their evil condition

to health, were fruitful sources of sickness and disease. From a careful examination of the old sewers, I am convinced that their evil condition arises mainly from their want of grade, bad work-

and size. The sizes of these old sewers are often out of the proportion to the service required of them, being of several times greater capacity than can be kept free from deposit with the limited amount of sewerage flowing through them. Some are five feet in diameter, receiving drainage that in amount is scarcely sufficient to keep a sewer of as many inches free from deposit. This limited flow, spread over the broad bottom of a large sewer, loses much of the power necessary to carry off the heavier matter, which is deposited over the bottom until the sewer is filled. The same carry off the heavier matter, which is deposited over the bottom until the sewer is flied. The same amount of sewerage flowing in a sewer of the proper size and shape to secure the greatest depth of flow would carry off all the solid matter before it had time to deposit or emit foul gases. In the construction of these sewers there seems to have been a total disregard of the fixed law of hydrautics, that the velocity of flow of a fluid is in proportion to the hydraulic mean depth. From this the result is that in the old sewers.

portion to the hydraulic mean depth. From this the result is that in the old sewers.

THE FLOW IS LITTLE MORE THAN STAGNATION. The outlets having been built on made ground, without the proper precautions having been taken to secure a firm foundation, the sewers for some distance back from their mouths have sunk below low water to such an extent as to cut off all chance of any portion of the sewerage being floated off, or the foat gases escaping; so that at each rise of the tide and with every drop of water sntering the sewer an equal amount of FOUL AIR IS DISPLACED and forced back through the house connections into dwellings with such force as to pass any trap that has yet been invented for its exclusion. Furthermore, from the depth below tide of these sunken sewers, the weight of water at high tide resists the discharge of storm falls, so that at the commencement of a heavy shower, should the tide be at the food, the rapid influx of rais water produces action similar to that of an hydraulic ram, with such force that the weak and rotten structures are unable to resist when the strain is brought upon them. Several have been known to burst from this cause.

IMPROPER WORKMANSHIP.

that the weak and rotten structures are unable to resist when the strain is brought upon them. Several have been known to burst from this cause. IMPROPER WORKMANSHIP.

Another great reason, said Mr. Towle, of so many failures among the old sewers was the practice of building them with dry or porous bottom, which, by allowing the fluid part of the sewage to leak out, left the solid matter without fluid to float it of, besides saturating the ground to an extent highly detrimental to health. The ground adjacent to the gressure above, and the sewer became displaced and broken. Sewers even when of proper size and form, if not constructed with great care and of the best materials, are soon acted upon by the powerful acids of sewerage, and their destruction becomes only a question of time, hastened by the imperfect manner in which plumbers connect drains with them. Many instances are found where connecting drains from houses extend entirely across and block up the sewer in such a way as to very soon completely obstruct it by accumulating soild particles at these points. Occasionally sewers have been built by the owners of property or other private parties, which, although in use and representing so much sewerage, are so wretchedly made, of the most objectionable shapes and, from mistaken economy, of cheap material of poor quality that they do not deserve the name of drains. The aggregate of these is large, but work of this kind is no longer allowed in the public streets without the supervision of the proper authorities. In certain perfolions of the proper authorities, and water courses, whole regions have settled, carrying down the houses upon them, the streets, with their pavements and the sewers. Some such places are Centre street, over the old Collect Pond; Canal street, West Twenty-third street and others, and the district lying between Greene, Sulivan, Canal and Broome streets. In the last hamed section the street, have been repeatedly regraded and repaired and the sewers rebuilt as the new roadways were fermed.

ouse drainage.
An egg-shaped sewer, outit at higher grade, has

An egg-snaped sewer, built at ingled glade, has been substituted.

The Centra street sewer, between Canal and Froome streets, affords a case of gross neglect or dishonesity, the sewer having been built lower at the centre of the block than at its point of dis-

tae centre of the block than at its point of discharge.

The sewer, in consequence, was filled with solid matter, which could only be removed at great expense by hand labor. A sewer on a uniform grade was built to replace the old one.

The terminations of Fifth avenue at Harlem River, Forty-sixth, Forty-eighth and Fifty-first streets at Hudson River, and 11sth street at Harlem River; also West Twelith street, between West street and Hudson River, and Thirty-lourth street, between Eleventh avenue and Hudson River, are cases where the sewers were built on made ground without proper foundation, and their mouths obstructed by the extension of the streets beyond them.

The sewer in Delancey street, between Cannon street and the East River, had for many years given trouble along its line and throughout the district containing contributing sewers. The diminity was occasioned by unevenness in the grades collecting deposit and reducing the effective capacity of the sewer. It has been rebuilt on a heavy pile and timber foundation. pile and timber foundation.

The Fulton street sewer, between West street
and Hudson River, also obstructed at its mouth,
sunken and filled with mud, has been rebuilt and

and Hudson Arter, as outstanded a result and extended.

Atteration and extension of sewers in Eighth avenue, Thirty-ninth street, Ninth avenue, Fortieth street and Tenth avenue.

The sewer in Thirty-ninth street, between Eighth and Ninth avenues, receives the drainage from some 130 acres of surface, in addition to the overflow and discharge from the distributing reservoir in Fifth avenue.

The owners and occupants of houses on Eighth avenue irequently complained of overflow from the sewer, during heavy storms, flooding the cellars to the injury of their health and property.

On a survey and examination of the whole sewerage district the overflowing of the Eighth avenue sewer was ascertained to be owing to the incapacity of the main sewer in Thirty-ninth street, between Eighth and Ninth avenues, and in Tenth avenue, between Fortieth and Forty-second streets, to carry off the water contributed by the branch sewers of the large area drained.

To remedy these defects, and to save rebuilding the entire mains sewer from the Forty-second street outlet to Thirty-fifth street and Eighth avenue, a new sewer of the proper sapacity for draining the entire area included in the district was constructed from the outlet sewer in Forty-second street, intercepting the Fortheth and Forty-first streets sewers, and leaving the original sewer in Tenth avenue to do the work for which it was first intended.

Next, the sower in Fortieth street was extended BAD CASES LAST YEAR REMEDIED.

Next, the sewer in Fortieth street was extended across Eighth avenue, taking in the Righth avenue running north and the Foruseth street sever east of Eighth avenue. Some forty-seven acres of drainage was by this alteration diverted from the main sewer at Thirty-ninth street and was carried direct to the new sewer in Tenth avenue, and thence to the main outlet in Forty-second street. No complaints have since been made, although very heavy rains have tested the sufficiency of these alterations.

The sewer in West Nineteenth street, between Sixth and Seventh avenues, which had been built in separate sections, on differing grades and irregular depths, leaving a long piece of the sewer lower than its outlet at Sixth avenue, has been rectified by connecting the depressed end with the deeper sewer west of Seventh avenue.

For a long time it seventh avenue, as the deeper sewer west of Seventh avenue, and the deeper sewer west of Seventh avenue with the deeper sewer west of Seventh avenue with the deeper sewer west of Seventh avenue, and the deeper sewer west of Seventh avenue, and the deeper sewer west of Seventh avenue, and the deeper sewer in the floating the sewer sewer in the floating the sewer in the floating the sewer in the floating the sewer in the sewer sewer in the floating the sewer in the sewer sewer in the seventh of the

heads, built of several pieces of stone, covered with iron plates, which were always liable to displacement, and continually falling into the sewer, have been replaced by solid iron heads and covers. Plans have been made for the alterations now most needed, which are principally in the business streets and crowded thoroughiares, and the work should be done systematically and not by piecemeal. The cost of the improvements will be directly assessable upon the property benefited. Under the present contract law the award would have to be made to the lowest bidder for the work, who might be wholly unit for the undertaking, and there would be a repetition of the greatineonvesience and vexatious delays which the public has experienced for the last three years by the alterations in progress to the old sewers between Fourieenth and Twenty-third streets, Tenth avenue and North River.

In all repairs and alterations to sewers it is found almost impossible to estimate the extent or cost of such without incurring a preliminary expense nearly equal to the final cost of the improvement, and no responsible contractor cares to bid on such work without first knowing exactly what is to be done. It is advisable that the present law should be changed, so as to allow the work to be done by day's work or by contract only to responsible parties.

done by day's work or by contract only to responsible parties.

THE COST OF CLEANING SEWERS.

The usual price of cleaning sewers by hand is about \$2.50 per load, and while under a good sewer system solid deposits should be carried off with the flow, the city has been yearly paying from \$27,000 to \$48,000 per year to remove them. It is netorious that persons who, under the old Tammany regime had the contracts for cleaning these sewers, finding it profitable to remove the deposits at \$2.50 per load, were in the habit of putting obstructions in the sewers with a view of creating solid deposits. The present Commissioner of Public Works has, hewever, put a stop to all this, and last year reduced the cost of cleaning the sewers to \$14,412 against \$44,600 for the year 1871. The following table furnished by Engineer Towle shows the comparative cost of cleaning brick and pipe sewers from 1867 to 1871 inclusive. The water supply having increased last year, the department has resorted to the flushing process, and two or three nights per week the water from the hydrants have been let into the sewers, reducing the expense of obeaning for the year to \$14,000:—

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	Bri	Brick Sewers.	*	Pip	Pipe Sewers.			Proportionate
	Potal Length in City in Linear Feet.	Num- ber of Loads Re- moved.	Cost of Re-	Total Length in City in Linear Feet.	Num- ber of Loads Re- moved.	Cost of Re- moval,	of Brick to	Cleaning Brick to Pipe Sewers.
10.00	1,058,136 1,068,817 1,088,911 1,120,234	13,073 19,358 11,992 18,548	\$33,082 23,736 23,736 23,435	150,022 222,020 283,120 336,313	200	\$125 200 1,442	7 5-100 to 1 4 81-100 to 1 3 78-100 to 1 3 34-100 to 1	1 261 46-100 to 1 1 241 48-100 to 1 1 55 46-100 to 1 1 32 18-100 to 1 1 34 61-100 to 1

hem.

Mr. Towle also furnishes the following table, all were much out of grade, and the last two had showing the extent of sewerage in the city at the

1	Length	Senoers. Length on Contracts Made during the Year.		o caire Surs No: ol		Severs. Imount in Entire at End of Each Year for Whole City.		pup
America	Brick.	Feet. Lin. Feet. Lin. Fee	7	Ba- and ma arts		Brick. Pipe. Total Lin. Feet. Lin. Feet. Lin. Feet.	Total Lin. Feet.	-mə
Amount constructed pre- rious to the year 1866. Contracted for in 1895. Contracted for in 1895.	11,075 8,368 14,586	27,950 28,796 90,685	39,026 37,164 106,221	12081	1,024,157 1,035,232 1,043,600 1,058,136	2,591 30,541 59,337 150,022	1,026,748 1,065,773 1,102,987 1,208,158	2,940 2,948 3,002 3,122
Contracted for in 1868.  Contracted for in 1869.  Contracted for in 1870.  Contracted for in 1871.	31,323 31,323	71,998 66,107 11,590	82,679 86,201 43,410	2216	1,068,517 1,088,911 1,120,234 1,152,064	292,020 288,127 385,318 346,903	1,290,837 1,377,038 1,455,547 1,498,957	

COLLECTING SEWERS.

The department have recently had careful surveys made of the sewers on the river fronts, and it has been discovered that vast benefits would result from the construction of large collecting sewers along the river fronts from the Battery to Fourteenth street. These are intended to intercept the present crosstown sewers, that are badly clogged

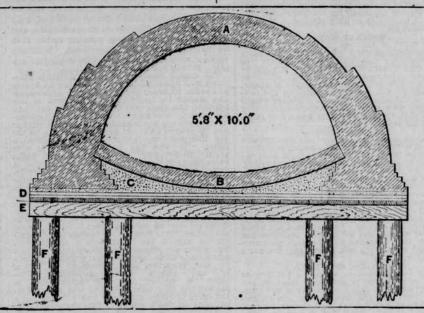
owing to an insufficiency of outlet accommodation. It is proposed to build these sewers along West street on the west side and South street on the east side. At the Battery they will be ten by seven feet, and be reduced in size as they advance northward. The estimated cost is about one hundred and sixty thousand doliars per mile, and, as the distance on the North River is two and a half miles and on the East River three and a quarter miles, the expense to the property owners benefited by it will be a mere nominal sum individually. The Department intends to build these sewers by piecemeal as the new dock system progresses. As the Bock Department construct a builshead they will cut off the present drainage and run out to the bulkhead, and these collecting sewers must be built to take their piaces. Appended is a drawing of one of these sewers. It is believed that they will be found superior to any ever constructed in this city. Many of the sewers now being put down in various parts of the city, are built after this design, of different sizes, to accommodate themselves to the street.

parts of the city are built after this design, of different sizes, to accommodate themselves to the street.

Overflows at high water marks will be put in at Rector, Vesey and Canal streets, so as to carry off the flow of the greatest storm. Engineer Towle believes that these sewers, properly and carefully constructed, will be most effectual in freeing all the sewers below Fourteenth street, and in preventing the flooding of Washington and Fuiton markets and cellars in the lower wards, which takes place on the occasion of nearly every-heavy rain. They will be valuable also in the event of means being devised in the future to utilize the solids that find deposit in the sewers. All that will be necessary will be the erection at the discharge points of immense receiving reservoirs, into which will collect the solids flushed out from the sewers. By steam power the solids can be removed from these reservoirs and discharged into vessels for shipment to the factory for working it up into fertilizers, at an expense of ten cents per load, or a saving of \$2.40 per load upon the present mode of cleaning the sewers by hand.

DRAINING THE WATER COURSES.

The sanitary authorities have frequently reported upon the uptown water courses as breeders of fever and ague and other "ills that fiesh is heir to," but they have been unable to do more than recommend underground drainage as a remedy. Mr. Towle represents that there is at present under way or finished eight miles of this underground drainage, the principal sections being as follows:—That portion bounded by Seventy-third and Eighty-third streets and Fifth avenues (completed); that portion bounded by Seventy-third and Eighty-third streets and Fifth avenue and the East River (completed); that portion bounded by Seventy-third and elighty-third streets and Fifth avenues (in progress), and that portion bounded by Seventy-third and elighty-third streets and Fifth avenue (in progress). These underground drains are about three feet wide by four feet high, and are located below the s



REFERENCES TO DIAGRAM.

A-Brick arch of sewer. B-Brickwork arch of sewer. C-Concrete.

D-Three course plank foundation. E-Cap timber. F-Piles.

WEATHER REPORT. WAR DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER, WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 3-1 A. M.

Synopsis for the Past Twenty-four Hours.
e barometer has fallen north and west of the Ohio Valley, with rising temperature, winds backing to fresh and brisk southwesterly and southeasterly, and increasing cloudiness. Clear weather generally continues over New England, with light to fresh southwesterly and southeasterly winds; and over the South Atlantic and Gulf States, east of the Mississippi, with light easterly winds and cloudy weather, and light easterly to southerly winds are now prevailing over Tennessee and Kentucky.

temperature, fresh and brisk southeasterly and southwesterly winds, cloudy weather and snow, excepting rain for probably the southern portions of Missouri, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. From Kentucky southward to the Gulf, falling barometer, rising temperature, light and frest easterly and southerly winds, cloudy weather and rain areas. For the South Atlan-tic States, light and fresh easterly and southerly winds, and generally cloudy weather. For the Middle States, falling barometer, rising temperature, fresh and occasionally brisk south easterly and southerly winds, and generally cloudy weather, with probably areas of light snow over the Lower Lake region. For New England, winds backing to light and fresh, southerly and probably southeasterly, and partly cloudy weather. Midnight telegraphic reports from Western Gulf

The Weather in This City Yesterday. The following record will show the changes in the temperature for the past twenty-four hours in comparison with the corresponding day of last year, as indicated by the thermometer at Hudnut's Pharmacy, HERALD Building:—

1873. 1872. 1872. 115 3:30 P. M. 32 11 6 P. M. 30 8 9 P. M. 26 11 12 P. M. 23 

## THE ICE IN THE RIVERS.

Yesterday was unquestionably the severest day of the season to the ferryboats on the North and East rivers. The Jersey City ferryboats made trips evening. Quite a field of ice floated down and extended from the New York side about onethird the distance across the river. The Hoboken ferryboats danced jig and reel alter-

Hoboken ferryboats danced jig and reel alternately on approaching the New York side. This was the only amusement afforded to the passengers, who repeatedly were within jumping distance of the bridge, but has to back out again, owing to the heavy masses of ice piled in the slips. The slips at Cortlandt, Chambers, Barclay and Desbrosses streets were alike in this respect.

The Fulton and other East River ferry boats were delayed considerably by the ice, which was carried up in large masses by the tide, and it was not without great difficulty that the slips were entered during the afternoon. No serious accident happened, but a large outlay from the funds of the ferry companies charged to the repairing account will be necessary during the ensuing week.

## THE WEATHER IN CALIFORNIA.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 2, 1873. interior of the State. The weather in this city is cloudy and cold, with occasional showers. The farmers' prospects never were better.

## EARTHOUAKE SHOCK IN SAN FRANCISCO.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 2, 1873. this vicinity at half-past three o'clock this afternoon, lasting about five seconds. There was no damage done, nor was the shock felt by people in

## VICE PRESIDENT COLPAX.

He Delivers a Lecture on Temperance and is Heartily Cheered. BALTIMORE, Md., Feb. 2, 1873.

Vice President Colfax delivered an address on temperance this afternoon in Masonic Temple to an immense and enthusiastic audience. Mr. Col-fax, in coming on the platform, was greeted with hearty cheers,

# THE ST. ALBANS RAID.

Was it Concocted in Canada, as Well as the Plot to Assassinate Abraham Lin-

ST. ALBANS, Vt., Jan. 30, 1873.

To the Editor of the Herald:—

I notice among the despatches of the Associated Press one from Montreal, P. Q., to the effect that

the testimony of certain witnesses, lately taken in Montreal, in relation to the claims against the British government on account of "the St. Albans raid," to use the language of the despatch, "is completely at variance with the report that said was concocted in Canada, and establishes the entire ignerance of the authorities respecting the designs of the raiders.' From the Ohio Valley to the Upper Lakes, Northwest and Missouri, falling barometer, rising gnorant of the testimony taken, or otherwise, he has wantonly misstated the facts. The above quotation is far from the truth. The testimony on behalf of the British government was entirely confirmatory of what many knew before, and the British government, by their Colonial Secretary,

British government, by their Colonial Secretary, Hon. Edward Cardwell, in a letter to Lord Monk, under date of April 1, 1865, therein admit that the raid was concocted in Canada, and, to use Mr. Cardwell's words, "that they (the raiders) did accordingly receive from Mr. Clay, in Canada, instructions for the attack which they afterwards made upon St. Albans, and were furnished by him, in Canada, with money for that purpose, and that they did, in fact, proceed from Canada to St. Albans on a belligerent expedition under these instructions."

In confirmation of Mr. Cardwell's statement one of the witnesses testified that J. Wilkes Booth and John H. Surratt were in Montreal, the former a little before and the latter just after President Lincoin's assassination, in secret communication with George N. Sanders and other Southern emissaries, leaving no doubt in the mind of any person that the assassination of Mr. Lincoin was likewise "concocted" in Canada. I need hardly say that it appeared that "the authorities" were not entirely ignorant "respecting the designs of the raiders." I know of no reason for such misstatements at this time, unless perhaps it may be thought necessary to insure the success of certain parties from Canada now at Washington striving to bring about a renewal of the former reciprocity treaty between the two governments, who would now gladly ignore "their record" during our late war. Yours respectfully,

## THE FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT. Particulars and Causes of the Last Month's Fires.

Fire Marshal McSpedon makes the following report on fires for the month ending, January 31,

1873:—
There were 135 fires during the month, involving a loss of \$560,375, of which \$463,800 was on stock and \$86,575 was on building. The amount of uninsured loss was \$35,900 on stock and \$1,550 on buildings, making a total of \$37,450.
The total amount of insurance was \$2,067,570, of which \$1,001,970 was but stock and \$1,000,600 on buildings. The number of fires in which loss was less than \$100 was 42; between \$100 and \$1,000, 21; between \$1,000 and \$5,000, 14; between \$5,000 and \$0,000, 2; over \$50,000, 2. Comparative statement of fires, loss and insurance for Fires. Loss. Insurance for January, 1872. 137 \$335,144 \$1,111,100 January, 1873. 540,375 \$40,375 \$2,077,570.

Rumor that the Body Was Identified-The Rumor Untrue and the Victim Still Unknown.

A rumer was afloat in Hoboken yesterday afternoon that the body of the murdered man had been identified by a Mrs. Pitzpatrick and three boys as a vender of patent medicines. The report, however, lacked foundation, inasmuch as the man whom the woman supposed the victim to be was found by Chief Donavan. The unfortunate deceased, therefore, still remains unidentified, and no clue to the assussins has yet been obtained.

## THE CUBAN CAUSE.

How the Edgar Stuart Recently Ran the Spanish Blockade.

Colonel Aguero and Captain Sommers in New York.

Shipping Arms, Ammunition and Clothing-Meeting the Stuart at Aspinwall-Landing the Cargo at Night-Arrival at Key West-An Enthusiastic Reception-The Insurgents' Prospects-The Blockade Runner at Baltimore.

The arrival in this city yesterday morning of Colonel Aguero, commanding the "expedition" re-cently landed on he coastt of Cuba from the steamer Edgar Stuart, and of Captain Sommers, who was in charge of the successful blockade runner, caused much satisfaction among the many sympathizers of the insurgents in "the Ever Faithful Isle" in this vicinity, who were advised of the fact, and these gentlemen received the acknowledgment due them for the eminent service which they have ren-dered the cause. A HERALD representative called upon these officials last evening, from whom he learned the story of the Edgar Stuart's late voyage, together with the many incidents attending it

which are exceedingly interesting.

Colonel Aguero and Captain Sommers seem to be fitting persons to conduct to a successful issue a blockade-running expedition of this nature. Firm in their faith of the insurgents' ultimately achieving their independence, their work in the respective channels through which it has been directed has been with a will and determination seldom equalled, if ever surpassed. Colonel Aguero, of the Cuban army and the special agent of the insurgents in this country, is a fine speci-men of the old Castilian type, and his whole bearing and demeanor indicates that a fitting selection has been made in appointing him to the delicate and difficult work intended to be accomplished by President Cespedes. Fully six feet and one or two inches In height, he has the movements of a leader and would not stop at any obstacle to insure success. Captain Sommers, com-manding the Stuart, is a Dane by birth and about thirty-six years of age. His record is a good one as a naval officer in the United States service, having served in our navy from the breaking out of the late rebellion in 1861 until 1868, "where," as he says, "he was engaged in catching blockade runners, but now he is doing a little business of that kind himself." His face, actions and conversation denote the intelligent officer, and his various Cuban commands of this nature include the steamers Annie, George B. Upton, Webster, Hornet and the Stuart.

NO VIOLATION OF NEUTRALITY LAWS. Captain Sommers, in beginning the narration of the late little successful trip to the coast of Cuba, avows that they did not desire to commit any violation of our neutrality laws, claiming that the "stores" they landed, even if some of such were munitions of war, without men, is not a violation

of any law but a municipal law of Spain. LEAVING NEW YORK. On the 11th of December last the party, consisting of Captain Sommers, Mates Charles Olsen and Anson Risley, two engineers and twelve men, sixteen in all, left this city in the steamer Henry Chauncey for Aspinwall. Accompanying them were Colonel Aguero, his son and four Cubans, the former having in charge the stores and merchandise designed to be carried to the insurgents. Without incident the Chauncey arrived at Aspinwall on the 19th of that month, when the "goods" were transferred to the Stuart, where she had been awaiting the arrival of this

party. It was the intention of the leaders that, all circumstances being favorable, they should start the shores of Cuba upon Christmas Day, that occasion being one when merry-making monopolizes the might not be so watchful as at other times. The machinery of the Stuart not being fully in order machinery of the Stuart not being fully in order prevented this, and the time was passed until the morning of the 25th before all was in readiness. Before departure there were shipped several additional men, materially augmenting the crew. And here it is proper to state that all the men under Captain Sommers were fully advised of the character of the voyage upon which they had embarked, and in every bosom was found a willing heart.

found a willing neart.

OFF FOR CUBA.

At six o'clock A. M., Christmas Day, the Edgar Stuart, with brave men on deck, and capable officers and competent leaders at their side, and with the leaders of war in the hold, left Assignment for At SIX O'CIOCK A. M., CHRISHMAS DAY, the Edgar Stuart, with brave men on deck, and capable officers and competent leaders at their side, and with the sinews of war in the hold, lett Aspinwall for Point Lono and Porto Aguero. The weather was fine, but the passage was purposely a long one, that the vessel might not reach her destination until the 1st of January, as at that time the nights were dark and Spanish cruisers could more easily be avoided. The passage also enabled the Captain to put the Stuart in blockade running trim, which was fully done. The sceamer went within a cable length of the shore, when Colonel Aguero, who had fully prepared for the event, sent messengers to the land with despatches to communicate the pleasing intelligence that the expected aid had arrived. Then the Stuart, not to be "caught napping," proceeded to sea and "hove to." Awaiting until the next night they returned, when there were found 500 stalwart insurgents ready to receive the munitions of war designed for them. Within six hours, by means of rafts shipped on the steamer for the purpose, there was landed at this point one-half the Stuart's cargo, consisting of 500 Remington rifles, 500 Spencer rifles, 500 hand grenades, 700,000 percussion caps, 200,000 cartridges, two tons of powder, 300 full sets of equipments, 200 blankets. 200 machetes, large quantities of surgical instruments, several medicine chests and many barrels of provisions. All the boxes were broken before the contents were sent ashore, as it is impracticable to take bulky articles up among the mountains. All the materials were quickly despatched into the interior, being carried in a canvas fitted to long staves, "a load" being that quantity which twelve men could carry. This, of course, refers to the arms, but the smaller articles had purposely been but up in New York in boxes of such weight that one man could easily manage and carry a long distance without becoming exhausted. This part of the mission being successfully accomplished, Colonel Aguero sent messengers f

arrived and meeting welcome friends to the number of 100, discharged the remainder of the cargo without accident, not leaving even a percussion cap on board.

SAILING FOR REY WEST.

Their mission ended, and Colonel Aguero having communicated with the leading officers of the Cuban army, the Stuart prepared for a run to Key West, leaving Port Aguero on the morning of the 4th of January. When ten miles off shore a Spanish cruiser was seen, but did not molest them. The steamer coasted along the shore six or eight miles distant from Cape Macey, on the southeast of the island, to Cape Crus, continuing westward, when, within eleven miles of the Cape of San Antonio, her machinery broke down, and the gallant stuart was almost driven on the hostile coast, a heavy gale from the north and north-west coming up. Under canvas she made good headway, arriving at Key West on the morning of the 13th of January without further accident. Fourteen days were required to repair the broken machinery. There was no trouble experienced here upon the steamer's arrival with the authorities, although many questions were asked by the officials regarding her mission, to all of which Capuain Sommers replied, as above stated, that he had committed "no violation of the neutrality laws."

RECEPTION BY CUBAN LABORERS.

The reception of the officers and crew of the

had committed "no violation of the neutrality laws."

RECEPTION BY CUBAN LABORERS.

The reception of the officers and crew of the steamer at Key West by the seven or eight hundred Cubans living there and depending upon their daily support by making cigars was extremely cordial. To show their devotion to the cause of independence they neld a mass meeting and made the occasion a holiday. Over five hundred came down to the point where the Stuart waslying, and, after inspecting the vessel, a subscription was taken up, and they presented Colonel Aguero, in aid of the cause, \$7,000 in money and clothing of all character, sufficient in quantity to make the aggregate collection \$20,000. Many individual instances of Cuba have such faith in the success of the insurgents' fight that they are willing to give all or nearly all of their worldly possessions. In this conjection it must be remarked that Colonel Aguero has now in his possession, from the general agency in Key West to the general agency of the cause in New York, a document showing that the same poor laborers have sent here—in addition to the above sum—\$40,000, to be devoted to the same purpose.

purpose.

PROM KEY WEST TO BALTIMORE.

The Stuart left Key West on the 24th uitime and reached Baltimore on the 29th. Pleasant weather was experienced until her arrival off Cape Hat-

teras, where a severe gale was encountered. Heavy ice was met coming up the Chesapeake Bay, but fortunately the United States revenue cutter Colfax was breaking her way up to the city, when Captain Sommers collowed in the broken track. There the vessel will remain until thoroughly repaired.

There the vessel will remain until thoroughly repaired.

The Insurgents' Prospects.

Colonel Aguero says that the feeling of resistance in the Cuban army is greater than ever, and thinks that within filteen months the Spanish power in the island will be overthrown. From the information in his possession tais conclusion is deduced. Every successful expedition to the Island gives them courage and causes defection in the Spanish forces. With belligerent rights from President Grant the independence of Cuba could be established within six menths.

The EDGAR STUART'S RECORD.

The Edgar Stuart, Colonel Aguero says, ran the blockade last year fourteen times, but was not able to land on these occasions more than twenty-three men, 107 rifies, 9,000 cartridges and some clothing. She was pursued three different days by Spanish men-of-war, being under fire twice, from the steamship Clara and the gunboat Mosquito, then only 200 yards distant. In these several pursuits the Mosquito was wrecked and the Clara and Selaye disabled. She was chased from Kingston, Jamaica, two entire days, where she had run the blockade maintained by the man-of-war-Francesco de Borgia. Her escape at this time was made without changing her course.

## CHINA.

Imperial Arrangements for the Vindication of the Divine Right.

The Foreign Ambassadors and the Audience Question-Court Influences and the Regency-Financiering with India.

SHANGHAE, Dec. 15, 1872. The official Gazette of Pekin is still full of orders and edicts in relation to the Emperor's formal ascension to the throne in February next. One

and edicts in relation to the Emperor's formal ascension to the throne in February next. One edict reads as follows:—

The Emperor has now reigned for eleven years, He has been assisted in the government by his imperial kindred and Ministers of State. And now that the Imperial marriage has just been consummated it is a fitting time to bestow some token of imperial favor on these faithiul servants, in honor of that event. Prince Tun will henceforth be allowed to use a chair with four bearers in the Imperial city. He is exempted from his duties as one of the heads of the imperial body guard, &c., and his son Tradilen is raised to the rank of High Honorary State Supporter Duke (feng en fu kwo kung). Prince Kung nas assisted in the conduct of affairs for many years, and has rendered most valuable services. So long ago as the eleventh year and eleventh month of Hienfeng, an order was issued commanding that the title of Chin Wang (Prince of the Blood) be hereditary in his family forever; but he so persistently declined the honor that further consideration of the subject was deferred till His Majesty should assume the reins of government. The Emperor's marriage has already been celebrated, and as the time of his ascension draws near, it is therefore ordered that the title of Chin Wang be made hereditary in the iamily of Prince Kung forever. \* \* Wensiang, a grand, Secretary and member of the Grand Council, is allowed to use a chair with two bearers in the Imperial or Forbidden City. Paoyun, a Junior Guardian of the Heir Apparent and President of one of the Boards, is appointed a Senior Guardian of the Heir Apparent and President of one of the Boards, is appointed a Senior Guardian of the Heir Apparent in the celebration of the imperial marriage on the 16th inst. be raised one grade: that the minor officials be honorably recorded once; that two silver ingots, one ounce in weight, be given to ench of the chair attendants, and one ingot to each of the lamp-bearers and other followers.

The REGENCY.

Although the Emperor w

The Chinese Coolie Traffic.

The Straits Observer, Singapore, East Indies, of the 21st of November, reports the consequences of the traffic in Chinese colies to that point thus:—
There are accounts of a vessel having arrived in Singapore roads the other 'day, conveying 1,470 Chinese emigrants to this sacred isle. When is this influx to cease? A new set of buildings will be required on the pauper hospital grounds to accommodate the new arrivals. There will be scarcely elbow room for any one else than Celestials in the elbow room for any one else than Celestials in the place if things go on at this rate. If civil strife were allowed as at Klang, &c., the population could be thinned by one tribe exterminating another.

Emigration of Coolies by Wholesale to

[From the Shanghae Budget, Nov. 14.] A special correspondent, dating at Macao, writes

(From the Shanghae Budget, Nov. 14.)

A special correspondent, dating at Macao, writes to us as follows:—

I am informed, on most reliable authority, of the difficulties now being raised by the Governor, which, if true, as they appear to be, will display great inconsistency on the part or His Excelency, combined with a system which cannot but tend to the selfish advantage of individuals rather than to the good name of the colony—I allude to his having granted new lacilities to native emigration from Macao to Costa Rica. Has Viscount de San Januario thought over the heavy responsibility that he incurs with his own government by authorizing and allowing a steamer to ship coolles to a country where these latter have not the slightest guarantee of any kind? or is it that he considers this a matter which he is justified in overlooking? If the Governor of Macao and Timor has such powers from his government that he can, of his own accord, solve questions of such magnitude, and under such circumstances, it is his duty to make the fact public through the medium of the official Gazette that the emigration to Costa Rica is open to all. Again, it is the duty of a liberal government to give the greatest publicity to all its acts, and not to proceed in the above manner; and the matter assumes additional importance if, as is rumored among the community, the privilege-has been granted to a certain emigration agent whose name has recently been mixed up in no very creditable manner with a shipment of coolles from the port of Swatow.

His Excelency lays himself open to serious reprimand should he allow the steamer Glensannox to leave for Costa Rica, and it is to be trusted that he will calmly meditate over so serious a step, and satisfy public opinion, which has been justly aroused, by not allowing any vessel to load coolies for a port where their hardships and sufferings must be of the most lamentable description. Should His Excellency be so ill-advised as to adhere to what appears to be his present intention, I shall communicat

## ALGERIA.

French Official Reports from the African Colony-Exportation of Breadstuffs to Italy.

The French Minister of the Interior has just received the following official report from Algeriathe latest authentic news from the African colony

the latest authentic news from the African colony of the Republic:

The smallpox is decreasing in Algiers, but the drought persists, to the great prejudice of agricultural operations.

The Oulad Eldi Cheikn, who are at Methlil, have not yet manifested their intention of profiting by the safe conduct which has been accorded them. At Oran agricultural labors are being continued on the coast, but in the south the farmers are beginning to be uneasy at the scarcity of water.

The latest news from the extreme south announces that Si Caddour ben Hamza has separated from his uncles, Si Lala and Si Eddin, and has reached Touat, with a view to keep himself alocifron the negotiations opened with his family.

Agricultural operations are carried on in Constantine under more favorable conditions than in the two other provinces. The price of cereals has augmented sensibly, in consequence of the considerable exportation for Italy.

The tribes of Diddell, which had consented to an exchange of territory with a view to European colonization, have been removed without any difficulty.

Some robberies attended by violence have been

Colonization, increased by violence have been some robberies attended by violence have been committed to the south of Biskra. The authorities are on the trace of the culprits.

## LAURA D. FAIR AGAIN.

Laura D. Fair has secured a hall in Stockton, and

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Feb. 2, 1873, will inflict a lecture on the people of that city on "Wolves in the Fold" some day this week,