

called that august body together at once, for the purpose of conferring upon the subject, and giving a proper reception to the distinguished strangers.

It was finally arranged that the freedom of the city should be tendered to the excursionists; and that a grand reception ball and supper should be given them at the Hernden House, on the evening of their arrival in town.

#### ANTECEDENTS AND OBJECTS OF THE EXCURSION.

Before speaking further of this great excursion, it may be well to refer briefly to its objects, as well as to its immediate antecedents.

The public generally, is so ignorant respecting the identity of the many railroads in this country, which bear in some form the appellation of *Pacific*, that I will take the liberty of inserting the following letter written upon that subject, and published for general information, more than a year ago, in the *National Intelligencer*, at Washington.

The *status* of many of the roads referred to has undoubtedly become changed somewhat since the letter was written; but it is believed that it will be found substantially correct for our present purpose:—

#### UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD.

*Confused Ideas as to its Locality—Nine Different Pacific Railroads—Location and Present Condition of Each—Government Aid, etc.*

OFFICE OF THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY,  
No. 13 WILLIAM STREET, NEW YORK, *February 10, 1866.* }

*To the Editors of the National Intelligencer:—*

So much doubt and confusion appears to exist in the minds of the people, and possibly of some members of Congress, in relation to the