Amusements — This Evening.

St. Charles Theatre.—An Object of Interest—Macbeth—Boots some Furious—Asmodeus.

Placide's Varieties.—Henry IV, Part I—Divertisements.

American Theatre.—The Creoles of 1803—Amelia Perf ormance—Divertisements—Pantomime—The Stubborn in Difficulties.

Dan Rice's Circus.—Equestrian entertainments.

B. of T... This Evening.

Philoc[illegible], No. 1, at the new Temperance Hall, 9. St. Charles street, at half past 7 o'clock.

[illegible] Fountain No. 2, V. B. in their new hall, on Magazine, between Felicity and Hennessan, Lafayette, at half past 7 o'clock.

Division Division, No. 16, at 8, at Gretna.

The Daily Crescent.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL
of the Council of the Second Municipality

NEW ORLEANS:

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 1, 1851.

☞ The Rev. Dr. Talmadge, President of Oglethorpe University, Ga., will deliver a sermon in the Presbyterian Church in Lafayette Square, THIS DAY (New Year) at 11 o'clock A. M.—Our citizens are respectfully invited to attend. 1d

The California Markets.—We had long been aware of the commercial enterprise directed towards our new State. We remember reading a year or so ago of a man who made a fortune by a consignment of pickles, and another by one of cider from New York—and all the world has heard of the ship load of the fair sex which sailed for the same purpose from Europe; but it remains for the nineteenth century and American enterprise to crown by the sale of the temples of the Most High. We cannot the following advertisement from the Alta California of Sunday, the 29th Sept. last:

"A Church for Sale.—A fine, well seated 1100 people; with 105 pews, with the seats, mahogany top rails, gothic windows and doors, will be sold for half the freight from New York. Also, 180,000 feet of sash lumber for blinds and houses.

"Gregory & Howard's Lumber Agents,

"Yard between Sacramento and California streets."

"*For half the freight!*" Verily, the market of California must be overstocked with "churches," or religion must be at a very low ebb!

We will only add that we find the above between two advertisements—the first of a lot of tobacco and cigars, and the other a "grand real estate raffle."

We are indebted to the steamer Peytona, Amaranth, and the Union, for our latest up-river dates.

Ladies' Fair at Gretna—Picnic Excursion—*Fare free*, to all who purchase tickets, on the boat, which will run from Canal street to Gretna every hour during the afternoon of New Year's Day, and continue through the week, if sufficiently patronized.

Theatre Placide's Varieties.—The approbation bestowed on the general performance of "The Merry Wives of Windsor" has induced the management to repeat the farce to-night, the first second and third parts of "Henry IV.," an subsequently one of the finest productions of Shakspeare's mighty mind. In addition to the talent justly allowed to the establishment, Mr. Neafie has been engaged to coronate the character of *Falstaff*. It is due to Mr. Neafie to say, the this engagement was not tendered to him until *after* it had been published that he would make his last appearance in the city at the American. Take altogether, the bill for the evening will be a rare treat for the lovers of good acting. M'lle Hilarion & Valley, and Monsr. Naugin, Vespa, and Pingsley, in some of their best dances.

The Prose Works of John Milton, edited by Rufus W. Griswold, Philadelphia: John Ball, 2 vols. octavo.

The other day we quoted at some length from Milton's Tract on Education. We made use of Bohn's English edition, and were not aware, until the receipt of Mr. Ball's two volumes, that he had published a late edition—at once handsome and cheap. We are pleased to find the grand English of Milton's prose in such form as to make it find access to the shelves of the million. It is true that much of his writings was devoted to the party politics of his day, but Americans should bear in mind that he wrote on the Republican side. We have often thought that Shakspeare and Milton might well be compared to Goethe and Schiller. Shakspeare and Goethe kept aloof from all interference with the politics of the day; both lived in a realm beyond the reach of the storms of their times. Milton and Schiller, however, felt deeply for the wrongs of their race, and both offered the best fruits of their mind for the emancipation and elevation of man. John Milton was the secretary of the Protector Cromwell, and conducted those negotiations which added so greatly to the power of England.

Conference Adjourned—Appointments.

The Louisiana Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, adjourned yesterday, at half past one o'clock. Bishops Capers and Andrews were both present at the close of Conference, and with their prayers and exhortations made it a most solemn and affecting occasion. The ministers then received their appointments for the year, and before night the majority were on their way to their fields of Apostolic labor:

New Orleans District.—J C Keener, Presiding Elder.—Poydras street, C D Colored Charges, J C Keener and F S Petway; Felicity street, H N McTyeire; Mount street, to be supplied; First German Mission, J M Hoefer; Second do, J Panié; Third do., to be supplied; New Orleans Circuit, R Tarpet.

Baton Rouge District.—W H Crumlaw, Presiding Elder.—Baton Rouge, R J Harp; West Baton Rouge, Thomas; Plaquemine, W H Crumlaw; Preston's Plantation, Z Thompson; Lafourche and Houma, W J Ferguson; Lafourche Mission, T A Reed.

Opelousas District.—D Kinner, Presiding Elder.—Opelousas, C A Evans; Vermilion and Newtown, H A Moore; Chicot, J Fisher; Franklin and Patterson, R M Goodwyn; Alexandria and Calcasieu, F H Dashiowitz; Hawes Creek, W H Tewell.

Shreveport District.—W E Doty, Presiding Elder.—Shreveport, L Fisher; Caddo, R H Reed; Caddo, Colored Mission, D B Watkins; Mansfield, A E Goodwyn; Coushatta, S J Graves; Minden, H A [illegible]; Sabine, S J Davis.

Monroe District.—J P Hoole, Presiding Elder.—Monroe, R M Goodwyn; Monroe Colored Mission, W M Rogers; Bastrop, J L Wright; Bastrop Colored Mission, to be supplied; Harrisville, Samuel Bard; Claiborne, R Ramie; Jackson, Joel Sands, and J E Scott; Columbia, M Davis; Houff Prairie, E W Yancy; Red River, W A Smith.

Vidalia District.—W R Gober, Presiding Elder.—Vidalia, T Speer; Trinity, E W Griswold; Tensas, W W Jenkins; Richmond and Madison, Mission to Colored People, T J Lacy; Lake Providence, M Dubose; Monticello, Charles J Galliber.

B M Rivers and A G Miller appointed Officers in Centenary College, Jackson, La. Richard Deering transferred to Kentucky Conference. Cyprian Gridley transferred to California. John Powell transferred to East Texas, and appointed to Crockett Circuit. P. M. Goodwyn, Secretary.

The next Yearly Conference to be held in Thibodaux, Parish of Lafourche Interior.

For the Crescent.

Vermont Nullification.

Messrs. Editors—In order to a proper understanding of the causes which led to the enactment of the Vermont law in respect to fugitive slaves, it would be well to look at some of the political movements of that State. In the spring of 1849, a union of the supporters of Cass and Van Buren was formed in hopes of carrying the election, and thus securing to themselves the control of the State. The plan had been under consideration by the leaders of these two parties for some time; in fact, a correspondence had been carried on, commenced soon after the election of General Taylor. From these efforts resulted what was called the "free democracy." It was calculated that this new party, formed by the union of two parties, making in its aggregate a majority of the States could overpower the whig party so long successful, as to have carried for Vermont the title of "the star that never sets."

During this canvass many promises and professions on both sides were made, in order to secure the vote for the free-soil party, now dissolving and about to be merged in the "free democracy." Unswerving hostility to slavery was urged by many a party hue-and-cry.

Something of the same spirit prevailed at the last election; indeed it exerted a strong influence on the nomination of both parties for Governor and the Legislature. The people, however, knew nothing of the above mentioned law. They never sailed for it; they never dreamed of it.

The usual resolution of adjournment had passed both Houses, when an unexpected opposition to some bill, chance prevented its passage as soon as expected, to night then to the last day of the session, with many minor matters undisposed of. These were accordingly hurried through with in the evening previous to the day of adjournment, and all that remained to be done—at least for the House—was for a quorum to meet the next morning and adjourn *sine die*. With this understanding, a large majority took the cars the previous evening for their homes, but (greatly to their understanding, another respectable (?) minority remained behind, and contrary to the known wishes of a large majority of the Legislature and people, they foisted upon the community the law in question. Whether the law is repealed next October or not, it can be nothing but a mere nullity.

That Vermont, as a State, was opposed to some of the Compromise measures is true; yet, though opposed to a law, she will never think for a moment of unconstitutionally resisting it. In fact, three resolutions passed by the same Legislature, though dissenting from some of the measures of the Compromise, yet speak of an attachment to the Union, and a love for it as strong as when the first applied for admission. F.

A New Steamer.—A new steamer which has been named the "Brilliant," and is intended for the Southern trade, was to have left Louisville, for New Orleans, on the evening of the 25th. She is probably in port this morning. The "Brilliant" was built at New Albany. We learn from the Louisville Journal that she has one of the richest cabins ever seen, and is furnished with a magnificence second to none. The carpets, chairs, tables, and in fact everything else, are on the grandest scale. She is propelled by two powerful engines, has an extra engine to supply her boilers with water, and also one for hoisting freight out of the hold. The "Brilliant" is commanded by Captain Jesse Hart.

The School Directors.

The Delta of Monday evening replies to the Crescent's article of the morning. Whatever faults may be charged to the Delta, that of delay is not among them; though it seems to lie at our doors. The long silence of the Crescent is not to be imputed to "want of confidence in the justice, wisdom, or propriety of the course pursued by the Council," but from a sense of propriety. The subject had been referred to the tribunals for decision, and a discussion by the press was out of place. After the argument of Mr. Grymes for the Directors, and of Mr. Hunt for the Council, we thought the subject had been exhausted. When, however, the Delta deemed that the cause still needed its aid, we felt bound to answer, "feebly," perhaps, its giant argument. So much for our "long delay."

The Delta, in its first article, admitted the right of the Council to repeal the ordinance creating the Board of Directors. Here are its own remarks:

"We think Mr. Hunt's position on this head is conclusive, that the Council certainly have the power and discretion to abolish an ordinance creating an office, before [illegible] which the incumbent was elected, by a vote of the people, as we said in the case of the 'minister judges' of August, in 1800, when the obnoxious appointments were got rid of by a repeal of the Judiciary act. [illegible] is a power in every to the wise exercise of legislation. [illegible] if, in this case, passed an ordinance simply repealing the act which creates the present Board, we think—right, judge as it would, under the circumstances—that there could be little doubt of the power of the Council to do so."

This concedes "the right of the Council to repeal the ordinance." But the Delta then proceeds to argue that the *preamble* of the ordinance nullifies its operation:

"But the ordinance of the Council under consideration is not of this simple and direct charm. It is not a mere act of repeal, but it is an act of accusation, or impeachment. It sets forth, in a preamble, that the Board of Directors have been guilty of malfeasance and misbehaviour, and on that account, they deem it proper to repeal the existence of them, in order to make way for another, and more compliant Board."

It becomes important to ascertain what is the power of a preamble. Against the legal novelty of the Delta we cited a legal truism, that the preamble is no part of the statute—and that no preamble could, in advance, stultify the statute it preceded. The Council had the right to pass the ordinance—that of itself is legal—but the preface to it, the preamble, vitiates the whole. This is the Delta's law. In reply to this, we cite Chancellor Kent:

"The title of the act, and the *preamble* of the act, are, strictly speaking, no part of it. They are sure to show the general scope and purport of the act and the inducement which led to its enactment. They may, at times, aid in the construction, but generally they are very loosely and carelessly inserted, and are not safe expositors of the law. The preamble may be resorted to in order to ascertain the inducements to the making of the statute; but if the enacting clause be clear and positive, recourse must not be had to the preamble.

"Notwithstanding that Lord Coke considers the preamble as a key to open the understanding of the statute, Mr. Barrington, in his Observations on the Statutes, has shown, by many instances, that a statute frequently recites that which was the real occasion of the law, or states that doubts existed as to the law when none in fact had existed. The true rule is as declared by Mr. J. Buller, in Cowper's Rep. Winchester, that the preamble may be resorted to in construing the meaning of the enacting clause, when it would be incorrect to be construed literally, or it may be resorted to in explanation of the enacting clause, if it be doubtful. This is the whole extent of the influence of the title and preamble." 1 Kent, 460.

Against this writer, whose opinions, except on political questions, are universally received as authority by the legal profession, we have this dictum from the Delta:

"The Crescent has discovered that 'a preamble is no part of a statute.' Now the very definition of a preamble is, the introductory part of a statute. The ninth the *preamble* does not explain the part of the law which is to be executed by the courts, it is universally considered as a part of the statute, to show the object and intent of the law. When that object and intent are clearly shown to be a violation of the supreme law, (which, in the case of the corporation, is the act of the Legislature,) courts will consider it and interfere to prevent such violation."

Now what violation is there of the supreme law? Why, that it ejects certain persons out of an office by the repeal of the ordinance creating that office, which repeal, the Delta has already admitted, (as by quotations,) the Council had a right to enact. Why does not its reasoning apply with equal force to the act of Congress repealing the Judiciary act of a previous session—the only object and intent of that repealing act being to get rid of obnoxious Judges who could not have been impeached? The motive cannot have any action on the power of the law-making body. If the power exists to repeal a previous law, the motives which actuate the repealers cannot take it away. The Legislature have an undoubted right, according to the Delta's concession and illustration, to repeal the present Judiciary system, whether the object be to get rid of the Judges or to make a better system.

The propriety of the course adopted by the Council is best defended by a reference to the facts. The Directors, in violation of the ordinance, grant the use of the Hall for purposes foreign to its destination. The Council requires them to rescind the permission thus granted. The Directors lay the communication of the Council on the table and refuse to rescind their illegal act. It is after this refusal that the petitioners withdraw their request and decline to use the Hall. The Council repeal the ordinance under which the Directors act, and pass a new ordinance changing the time of election, and the official year. The Directors obtain an injunction against the Council prohibiting the election of a Board under the new law, and of all action in the matter. Thus the case stands at present. The Directors continue in the possession of their offices and in the discharge of a part of their duties. They have neglected to employ lecturers as required by the ordinance. This dereliction of duty by them the Delta very charitably passes over, under the plea that no application has been made by any person to deliver lectures. The ordinance makes it the duty of the Directors to procure lecturers. I s no excuse for them to say that no one has applied—they must themselves make the application. Last winter at this time, the Hall was crowded night after night, to hear the lectures of Prof. Forshey had a respectable audience to hear his lectures on Geology, and Prof. Garland drew full houses to hear his course on Meteorology. A large sum was realized by the sale of the tickets. Why might not the same course have been followed this season? What is the cause of his difference? Because the Directors of last year attended to their duties, and "obtained able Professors to lecture weekly on branches of useful knowledge." And the Directors of this year have not obtained able Professors, nor given any good reason for neglecting this important duty.

The present Council are willing to submit the matters of dispute to the decision of the public, through the ballot box.

Municipal Affairs.

The Council of the Second Municipality met last evening and transacted no business, except that of rejecting Major J. R. Beard as Alderman of the Sixth Ward. A committee was appointed to examine his qualifications. It consisted of Shields, Johnson and Sewell. They presented two reports—one signed by Johnson and Sewell, the minority signed by Shields. The majority reported that he was duly qualified; the minority reported that he was not qualified, because he had not resided three months in the Ward at the time of his election.

The laws defining the qualifications of aldermen were then read:

"No person shall be eligible as an alderman who at the time of his election does not possess the qualifications of an elector." [Act of February 17, 1805.

"That each voter shall vote in the precinct in which he resides at the time of the election, and he shall be deemed to reside wherever his lodging or sleep for the last three months." [Act of January 25, 1847.

Mr. Shields stated that Major Beard himself had said that he had moved into the Ward a few days after October 1st, and the election was held on December 23d.

Mr. Beard was allowed to address the Council on the subject. Though a very good speech, it was only the last sentence which bore on the subject—"that he had not resided three months in the Ward."

The fifteen minutes were spent in explaining how, like a modest author, it was only "at request of friends," that he had reluctantly consented to run. That the very friends who had put his name in the papers, had called on him to obtain his pledge on the school question, and when he had indignantly refused, they had requested him to withdraw. The only fact of any importance was that of his want of residence—which was inserted, like a lady's postscript, at the end of the letter. He is the first victim sacrificed at the shrine of the school question.

Mr. Shields replied, and said that Major Beard was mistaken—no pledges had been sought—but he, with other gentlemen, had waited on him to know if he had the necessary residence; and ascertaining that he had not, they urged his withdrawal, which he refused.

Messrs. Sewell, Stewart, and Hooper, saw no good reason for objecting to Major Beard. A few days did not make much difference. Mr. Sewell had known persons to hold seats who had never resided in the wards they represented.

Mr. Yancey said the law was too clear. Major Beard had not the residence required by law; but he was excused from voting.

On the motion to accept the majority report, the yeas and nays were:

Yeas—Johnson, Hooper, McCormick, Sewell, Stewart—5.

Nays—Hawthorne, Lawrason, Marks, Montanye, Pride, Redshaw, Shields, Sykes—8.

Yancey not voting.

The report of the minority was then accepted, which declares that J. R. Beard is not legally qualified.

The Council then adjourned to Monday next.

The Louisville and Portland Canal.

Mr. Benton introduced a bill for the purchase of the remaining shares of the Canal, with a view to the reduction of the tolls to the amount of absolute expenditures. As usual with Mr. Benton, where his passions do not come into play, he gives a full history of the work. It is a most onerous tax on the commerce of the Western waters, and we condense his statement, that our citizens, who are so deeply interested in the navigation of the rivers, may fully understand the nature and amount of the imposition:

The whole capital stock of the company is one million of dollars, divided into 10,000 shares of $100 each. Of this stock the United States took 2932 shares, amounting to $293,500; and, up to January, 1842, received in tolls the sum of $457,778—being $24,278 more than the amount invested in the stock—the only instance, perhaps, in which the United States ever made money by going into profit and loss operations; and a case in which the Federal Government should be ashamed of its profits.

In 1842, a change was effected, by which all the profits were devoted to the purchase of the stock—but allowing the holders six per cent. per annum to be added to the value of each share. Up to January, 1850, 7650 shares have been bought at that date, and 400 on Jan. 1, 1850—leaving only 1950 shares.

The bill of Mr. Benton proposes the purchase of these shares at $200, being $32 less than their value by the arrangement of 1842. The amount of the appropriation will be $390,000. The tax is enormous, Fifty cents a ton on each passage of a boat loaded or empty. Boats running between St. Louis and the cities on the Ohio are of about two hundred tons. They pay $100 each time they pass. Their voyages are weekly and they pass twice a week for about forty weeks—only $8000 toll—half the value of the boat. Those in the New Orleans trade are of a larger size and pass less frequently. This serves as a direct tax, increasing the expense of shipments via New Orleans, and aiding to divert commerce from this city.

Mr. Benton furnishes this table of the expenses connected with the foreign commerce, and urges the claims of the internal trade to some favor:

"The sum estimated for the support of the navy—chiefly for a tax for the protection of foreign commerce, and for defence in the wars in which it may involve us, for the coming year, $8,439,934 61; for support of the light-house establishment the estimates are, for the year ending 1851, $1,000,000; for repairs of lighthouses $89,038 64; for expenses of lighthouses $81,915 24; for expenses of beacons and buoys $37,038 62, for annual salaries of lighthouse keepers $120,000 00; for completion of lighthouses $2,000 00; for pensioners and commutations $291,000; support of seamen about $125,000; for the coast survey $350,000; for continuing the Delaware to Raritan water $50,000; besides $250,000 to begin it, and five per cent. considerations of $250,000, $100,000, $100,000, $100,000, and $150,000.

"To obviate all other objections, and to satisfy the most scrupulous, either on the point of money or the constitution, I have to say that the United States has received back in dividends paid into the treasury before 1851, the sum of $2,273,778,8, being $24,278 more than the stock cost her; and that the State of Kentucky, on the condition of making the canal free—except for its expenses—has, by a legislative act, vested the jurisdiction of the canal in the United States."

Mr. Davis of Mississippi, at once opposed the bill on constitutional grounds. If Congress is to make any improvement, it should be in the river over which it has jurisdiction. The million already expended for the canal is to be thrown away, and a less feasible plan of improvement is to be executed, to avoid giving offence to the tender conscience of this Nullifier and Secessionist, whose last public act in his own State has been to advise a military preparation for secession.

Would it not be well for the merchants here engaged in the Western trade to memorialize Congress on the subject? There seems to be a desire on the part of both Houses to make up for lost time by close attention to business of a practical character. Let the influence of New Orleans be brought to bear on this important subject.

Fugitive Slaves in Vermont.

A NARRATIVE OF FACTS, UNEMBELLISHED.

Mr. Clemens, of the U. S. Senate, remarked in a recent letter, that he did not believe there was a fugitive slave in Vermont. Mr. C. said this in allusion to the recent nullifying resolutions of the Legislature of that State.

This remark of Mr. Clemens reminds the writer of a circumstance of some interest. In 1845, he was spending a few days in a delightful town upon the eastern shore of Lake Champlain. He necessarily formed an acquaintance with the *barber*, an intelligent mulatto. The latter informed him that he was from Louisiana—that three or four years previous he belonged to a gambler in New Orleans—that his master was possessed of a very beautiful quadroon mistress, for whom he had paid $2600, but who, as well as my informant, perfectly detested her owner. On my expressing my surprise to find him so far from home, he replied that the gambler was accustomed to travel from New Orleans up the Ohio River; that his servants were his ordinary companions, and were well known to the captains in the trade—that the servants frequently of consequence made their trips alone—cannot any questions being asked—that at last the gambler was taken sick "one day with yellow fever and died at night"—that thereupon the servants went to his trunk, took therefrom several thousands of dollars, and proceeded up the river without informing any one of his death, and did not stop until reaching the village of ——, in the interior of Vermont—that on recounting their adventures, they were received with open arms (not the lady alone, but both of them,) by a sympathizing community—that they went to school a year and made great proficiency, and afterward separated, she going to a city in the interior of New York, where she was a milliner, and he to the place where he shaved me. He informed me that he had been extremely prosperous, and had no idea of visiting New Orleans again shortly—that he had the day before purchased a lot for $500, upon which he designed building.

On alluding to this strange narration, my landlord confirmed all of it that referred to what occurred after the arrival of my informant in Vermont.

But this is not all. A few weeks afterward, business called me to the city in New York where the fair *inamorata* of the gambler was said to reside. I fell in company with some of my old college friends, and inquired if they knew a certain Miss ——, (I forget the name, but the barber had told me). They replied at once in the affirmative, and said that she was at the head of a principal millinery establishment of the city; and they expressed a surprise bordering upon incredulity when I informed them of her history, and that *she was not a white woman!*

It did not occur to me until sometime afterward, that that gambler's fate was somewhat mysterious; at any rate, *his disease ran its course in a remarkably short time.*

It has been objected to our system of jurisprudence, that great delay attends the settlement of estates. But the above recital is, to my mind, conclusive evidence of the contrary. X.

New Application of the Arts.

The London correspondent of the National Intelligencer writes, that no doubt now exists of the practical utility of the new discovery in the manufacture of flax. It seems that flax can be made into cloth possessing all the pliability of cotton, and at a less cost of production. This discovery, together with that by which peat is converted into many articles of value, will doubtless change the condition of Ireland, and make that unhappy country one of the wealthiest in the world. We quote a few lines from the letter. This is certainly one of the most gratifying results of modern chemistry on record.

The preparation of flax upon a new plan—that is, without steeping it—is spoken of in the highest terms of praise by the Society for the Promotion of the Growth of Flax in Ireland. In their last report, the comparative produce of flax fibre from the 100,000 acres of land now proposed to be brought under flax cultivation in Ireland by the two different modes of steeping and the new mode without steeping, is as follows:

	Tons.
Upon the old steeping system	28 6 5
Upon Schenck's improved steeping plan	47 41
Unsteeped process	56,938

The money value of the produce of the unsteeped process would be £2,434,400 over that produced by Schenck's plan, and £2,874,650 over the old process. Mr. Claussen's method of bleaching and preparing flax, so that it may be spun and woven by cotton machinery, is likely to be very successful; the discovery is one which may exercise a most important effect, both on our agriculture and manufactures. It is said that with this material, so prepared, the texture and softness of cotton are gained, together with the durability of linen, unaccompanied with the cold, paper-like surface which has hitherto been peculiar to it; and these advantages are said to be attainable at a cost of production considerably below the present price of cotton. "As every effort," says the Times, "will be made to induce the Irish agriculturists to make preparations for the extension of the next crop, it is probable that, before the lapse of another year, enough will have been accomplished to warrant a broad and definite opinion as to the ultimate results that may be anticipated from the movement." The Morning Chronicle says: "The experiments taking place at Manchester are progressing in the most satisfactory manner, and the results are, if possible, even more satisfactory than at the period when we first announced this valuable discovery. The samples which we have received fully bear out the opinion which we then expressed as to the value of the invention." The Glasgow Chronicle says that Mr. Elijah Slack, of Renfew, patented, in June, 1849, the very invention which Mr. Claussen is now trying the advantage of, and that Mr. Slack then produced samples of flax "which were spun and wove by cotton machinery, to the surprise and gratification of many parties in Glasgow." This is, certainly, an eminently practical age. Take another fact in proof that it is so. The bogs of Ireland, which were once regarded as being incapable of any profitable cultivation, are found to contain the elements of unknown wealth. The gentlemen, at least, are now converting the peat into charcoal, oils, dyes, naptha, etc. The waste land so reclaimed is said to be admirably adapted for the cultivation of beet for the manufacture of sugar. In England a company has been formed for the conversion, by distillation, of the "Kimmeridge coal," or bituminous shale of Dorsetshire, into mineral oil or spirit, asphalt, and manure, so as to leave a profit of 100 per cent. on the expenditure. The manure, which is sold at £2 10 per ton, has been tried on various crops with the most satisfactory results, and is said to be equal in its effects to guano, phosphate of lime, or any other artificial manure now in use. We may mention, in connection with these marvels of modern chemistry, that a company of gentlemen is now engaged in the neighborhood of Liverpool in making experiments for the purpose of reducing the price of gas. These gentlemen speak with the utmost confidence of being able to procure from coal a much larger amount of gas than has hitherto been obtained, and also to get from the *residuum* products of very considerable value, so as, in fact, to enable them, if they chose, when the necessary apparatus was erected, to light a large town for nothing, and yet realize a profit. However, should they succeed in reducing the price of gas 50 per cent., we shall be much indebted to them.

For the Crescent.

The Drama;

Its Moral Character, Tone and Tendency considered.

BY COLLEY CIBBER.

"The corruption of the Theatre is no disgrace of its morals and principles only."

The drama, in every age, but more particularly in that which gave it "a local habitation and a name," has always been looked upon as being the connecting link between the wise and poetry and politics, and may justly claim to be a part and portion of a country's literature. The stage should be the standard for correct pronunciation, as it affords to be a school for morals, and the improvement of mind. It can with propriety be placed in either category, for we never yet witnessed a big tragic play, but from which we have learned something, and felt ourself exalted in the scale of humanity, or resembling some act of our own with those so ably, and not unfrequently glowingly, rendered to us. The stage is the great world personified; men, manners and customs, are there given with a truthfulness and coloring which acts upon the mind as a charm, and for the time being conveys us to the place, and amid the various scenes represented. The illusion is not, therefore, merely optical and pleasing, but intellectual and sensitive from association, and our knowledge of the subject thus treated. The decline of the drama in our midst, and the necessity compelling managers to change the whole character and nature of their performances, arising from this decadency, have in a measure lessened that interest and taste for dramatic representations which was wont to throw around it and the drama a charm in which poetry, painting and sculpture bore a conspicuous part. The language, as it were, the dignity of the drama, by succumbing to the vulgar many, the whole force of the art became degraded, its moral sickened by the touch of vice, and all those pleasing associations of the olden times were destroyed at one blow, by the introduction of the Jakeys and the Lizzes of low society on the stage.

These remarks apply more particularly to our Northern cities, and it is with reluctance we are compelled to add, that these vile specimens of the dramatic literature of our country, made up of vulgar slang and the low expletives of the blackguard, have brought more money to the treasury of a theatre than ever did the beautiful productions of a Bulwer or a Knowles. Indeed, for a while Shakspeare was laid upon the shelf, while these "poisonous weeds" of the stage flourished. Crime, and all the vices of man, engendering their kind, as their display was apparent, for a while filled the theatres; thus the moral leprosy of a vast city festered on the stage, in the full and undiminished sunshine of public favor. Youth was thus initiated into the vices of the town, and the mysteries of crime exposed in their worst and most appealing features. While there is this sown were taking root in the minds of the young; thus the seed of future crime, and fearful picture, without one redeeming trait. A man by the name of Christian, of New York, now on his way South, claims to be the original of these vile scums of the earth, which float, salt were down the stream of life, ever uppermost when the public smiles.

It is that very smile—the smile of approbation—the smile of honors rendered, which have eaten into the very heart of the drama, and sapped whose gentle foundation has given a temporary air of evil, which will take years to remove. Protect the stage from such pieces as "Life in New York," "Jakey in Philadelphia," "Jack Sheppard," and all such trash as give us the worst phases of poor human nature, rendered pleasing to youth for their novelty, the novelty of crime, then would have no sphere of its benefit, nor its helpfulness. While the first of these pieces has created some mild a new class of minors in Jakeys of society, the counterparts of which are found in the Lizzes, the latter, "Jack Sheppard," has filled our prisons and Houses of Refuge with his followers and imitators.

In the city of Philadelphia alone, it was estimated that the performance of the drama of "Jack Sheppard" was the means of furnishing at least five hundred amateur robbers to the public notice, and suiting for the time being their career in the Penitentiary. Let our managers protect their theatres from these vile abortions, and then we may well congratulate ourselves of having, as we once had, the best regulated theatres in the world! These remarks, our readers will observe, are applied more particularly to the Northern theatres, where criticism is confined to the opinions of the shilling pit, and managers cater for the taste of those whose estimate of dramatic merit are made up from their own morbid and depraved appetites. Of course there are a few honorable exceptions to this rule, as it is hoped they are to be found every where.

The history of our drama, from its earliest date, 1700, is one of much interest, and more particularly from the fact that from the first of its introduction, legitimate pieces, plays from the best English authors, were universally selected and paid for. Dramatic representations, if they do not interfere with the religious observances of a people, are at all times beneficial, useful and necessary. Upon this subject let us quote the language of an old and valued friend of ours, and a likeable friend of science and of art. He says: "There are no people on the face of the earth who have advanced the least step towards civilization, who have not had their public amusements. These may be purely for relaxation from weightier employment, or for instruction conveyed through such means as tend to delight, at the moment they exalt and improve. Mankind, who is congregated for the purposes of innocent pleasure, or the higher purposes of receiving lessons on life, morals, or religion, are, by the sympathy of such assemblies, more finely bound and knit together in the kindlier feelings of our common nature. The merely meeting together for the same purpose, if that purpose is not evil, tends to good."

How far these remarks will tend to sustain theatrical representations on a Sabbath, will be considered hereafter, as we pass on to examine into the morality and the propriety of such an infringement on God's holy day—a day set apart for the higher purposes of man, and a day wrought to Him who is above all that is earthly, the Highest of the Most High, the Mighty of the Mighty. We are not bigoted, nor have we any of the new fangled notions of Northern fanatics, but as we are the advocates of the stage and the drama, we shall discuss the question of its morality, and fairly examine into the question, whether secular performances are a source to the drama's interest; and if they are not injurious to public morals, and the cause of religion. As stage representations come under the head of amusements for the people, the question naturally arises, how far such exhibitions tend to the injury or the character of public morals? If we look back upon the history of nations, we find the amusements of the people mark inevitably the progress of civilization, and wherever their enjoyments were interfered with, a retrograde movement into darkness and barbarism was the consequence. Yet amusement—no matter of what description—must yield to time and place to those observances and ceremonies due to the worship, the praises, and glory of our Maker.

[To be continued.]

Suicide.—Mr. F. A. Griswold, of this city, put an end to his existence on Tuesday night last, by cutting his throat with a razor. He had been drinking for some weeks to such an extent as to produce partial insanity at intervals, and this was doubtless the cause of his laying violent hands upon himself, though we are assured that many days previous to his death he had told some persons and intimated to others that he would commit suicide on the 24th, and had even gone so far as to prepare for the event by making a will. But these professions and this act were certainly prompted by the disordered condition of his mind, brought on by intemperance. Mr. Griswold was a young man of considerable intelligence, and proved himself to be the possessor of good business qualifications during years of employment in the probate clerk's office and other situations. He had acquired some property, was generally beloved for his excellent social qualities, and might have lived usefully and pleasantly in this community. Like too many, however, he sought to drown in the intoxicating cup the yearnings and disappointments of soul which all young men of keen sensibilities must experience, and so seeking, drank insanity and death. He was, we believe, a native of New York, but had resided many years in this city. [Vicksburg Whig, 28th ult.

The Mobile Defalcation.—The Register of Monday says:

"There have been numberless rumors afloat, the last few days, in reference to the recent astounding discovery of the embezzlement of the funds of the Firemen's Insurance Company. Mr. Greene still remains in confinement. Immediately after his arrest he made an assignment to the company of all his property, real and personal, estimated in value at about $40,000, though some portions are encumbered by mortgages. The whole amount embezzled is said to exceed $80,000. Up to Saturday, only about $17,000 worth of assets had been discovered. The Directors have been busily engaged in efforts to find out what application had been made by Mr. Greene of the funds. His statement, we understand, is that he had invested them in speculations in cotton, which had resulted in losses!

"We understand that Mr. Greene's official bonds were for $20,000, with four sureties. One of these has seized a portion of the property conveyed by Mr. Greene to the company, with a view to indemnify himself."

And in another paragraph it adds:

"On Saturday evening last, Mr. S. W. Cochran, of this city, was arrested, at the instance of the Firemen's Insurance Company, charged with being concerned in the late embezzlements of the assets of that company, by Rufus Greene, its Secretary. He was taken before Judge McKinstry, and, after a brief examination, was held to bail in the sum of $15,000, which was promptly given. Mr. Cochran has, for some years, been engaged as an Exchange broker in this city, and ever maintained a fair character."

Mr. Cochran publishes a card, asking for a suspension of public opinion till the affair is investigated.

Navigation.—During the past week the running ice has entirely disappeared from the river opposite the city, and we hear that the navigation is clear, up the Mississippi as far as Keokuk, at the lower rapids. The Illinois is said to be open to Peoria, but few boats are willing to venture into it. The Missouri river is closed by ice and low water. From this to Cairo the water is so very low, as to prevent any steamers, but those of the very lightest class, from carrying freight. Boats coming up report about six feet. A few cold days, in its present shallow condition, would certainly close it up by ice effectually. [St. Louis Union, 25th inst.

The Ohio River.—The Ohio, on the 25th, at Louisville, was rising fast, with 13 feet water in the canal, and 9 feet water on the falls. During the previous 24 hours the river had risen 2 feet. The weather was clear and moderately cold.

At Cincinnati, on the evening of the 24th, the river had risen 5 feet. The Wabash continues unnavigable.

Ohio.—Forty-nine counties in Ohio are ascertained by the census to have a population of 1,007,289; in 1840, they had a population of 718,351; increase 288,915. It is estimated that the total population of the State will be 2,150,000.

New Invention in Printing.—The New York Sun notices a new invention for the manufacture of printing types, which has been but partially tested thus far:

The operation of improvement is as follows: A set of steel punches are made, corresponding with the alphabetical letters, figures and points now in use, which, when struck on copper, leave a raised impression, instead of intaglio, or sunken—being exactly the reverse of the present mode. Now, for instance, by striking the punch S upon a smooth piece of copper, there will be left a raised letter N, the word SUN is produced upon the copper plate in relief, or raised, and impressions may be printed therefrom.

The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Clipper, writing on the 23d, says:

"Mr. Schenck, of Ohio, it is now reported, is destined for the mission to Brazil, vice Mr. Tod, from the same State. If this be true, the Administration has done well in this selection, and the country will have cause to rejoice, for a better qualified man, so far as fitness, knowledge of commerce and wants of the United States, general information and legislative experience are concerned, could not be found in Ohio. Mr. Schenck is a self-made man, and if he would only [illegible] himself to the study of the Portuguese, so as to speak and write it, a work of eighteen months for any determined man, he might signalize his mission to Brazil by some great act, in drawing the commerce of the two nations nearer together than they are.

"The Cheap Postage Bill will soon be disposed of, but it is impossible to say which rate will prevail. The Senate, or majority of that body, is regarded as being for the two cent rate, and that of the House for the three cent rate. I hope the House will agree to recede to the two cent rate at once. It will have to come down to that standard, sooner or later, and one cent for newspapers for all distances. The great object of Congress should be to so act, as to give a permanence in the rates now contemplated."

Naval.—Orders have been received at the Navy Yard, Gosport, to fit out the U. S. ship Jamestown with all possible despatch—destination, the Coast of Brazil.

The U. S. ship Marion was at Whampoa, China, on the 25th September last. [Norfolk Herald.

Arrivals at Principal Hotels....Dec. 31.

St. Charles ....H Williams, Md; D Kerr, Dr M Gonzey, Wm Gonzey, F F Armstrong, J R Mathews and wife, Lady J Reid, Sir A Reid, Sir Wm Reid, Sir Wm Gordon, Capt Gordon, Capt Reid, Capt Gordon, Capt Reid, Capt Gordon, Capt Reid