

1866.

Continued from First Page.

The occupations of woman-kind were spinning, weaving, and embroidering, their amusements, cards and dice. When James IV. visited his affianced bride, the Princess Margaret of England, he found the "Queen playing at cards."

How grand then, some one of royal family, or some wife and child of a great scholar, was well instructed, even in the classics, but, generally, the woman was well cared for who could read and write.

Carriages of all kinds were rare, and when a lady desired to go further than she could walk, she was either carried in a chair placed on poles and borne by men-servants, or she was mounted on horseback to find some gentleman.

Yet to all these people came "Merrie Christmas" and "Happy New-Year," with frolic and gifts. The quantity of what we call only the necessities of life are gathered from the articles they selected as presents. A few pins was a common present, also a pair of gloves was a costly offering.

The extensive wardrobe of Queen Elizabeth was, in a large measure, acquired by New-Year gifts. Gentlemen tendered money, from 20 to 40 pounds, and ladies gave robes, mantles, hose, farthingales, and such like. None in the household were exempt from this tax, even to the lowest officer. Sir Gilbert Drettrick presented Her Majesty, one year, with a book of the States in the reign of William the Conqueror. The same year, one Ableson, Master of the Navy, gave her a Bible covered with cloth of gold and silver clasps. Her physician gave foreign sweetmeats and green ginger. Her apothecary, oranges, lemons, lozenges, and confits. Mrs. Blanch, a comfit box and spoon; and, beside, were pictures, drawing-glasses, gloves, chairs, and other things.

The Queen, say they, returned gifts, but took care that a heavy balance should be left on her side. In 1824, Mr. Todd of Great Newport, London, exhibited a roll of vellum ten feet long, being a catalogue of the New-Year gifts of King James I. to persons therein mentioned, Jan. 1, 1625.

The weather of New-Year's Eve was of no small importance, as an index of fertility. Brand cities and old legends.

"If New-Year's Eve night wind blow south, It betokeneth milk and growth; If west, much milk and fish in the sea; If north, much gold and corn there will be; If east, the trees will bear much fruit; If north-east, then it, man and brute."

The last line is evidently put in to take out the rhyme. In the South Down Highlands, a custom has prevailed time out of mind; and the inhabitants preserve it often in their migrations to foreign countries.

At sunset, all work is suspended, and they gather for sport around the farm-house fire. At bed-time, two of their number go with a picher to a spring, and fill it with water, being very careful not to let it rest on the ground, as that would destroy the charm. It is brought back in solemn silence, and, without a word spoken, they all retire to rest. The next morning, still in silence, a glass of the water is served all round, and the beds sprinkled. A fire is then kindled under some juniper bushes, and the smoke accumulates until the household are almost suffocated. The horses and cattle undergo the same fumigation, and the whole establishment is then supposed to be safe from witchcraft and secure of good luck for the ensuing year. The guide says now opens the windows to dispel the smoke, administers all round a spirituous potion, and the felices of the day begin with a sumptuous breakfast.

The salutation of some clergies, *au must chertout*, is understood to mean, "you owe me a New-Year's gift," and like our Philippina, the first speaker wins.

A writer in "The Gentlemen's Magazine" of 1791 says that in Westmoreland they go about with baskets and staves—that is, a staff thrust through the handles of the basket, by which it is carried—singing and making merry. Whoever will not join them is put in the basket and carried to the next public house, where he is obliged to pay a trifle to get free.

And thus has descended to us from generations past the custom of giving a warm welcome in the shape of merriment to the coming year. It is but doing as they did, when the maiden and her lover exchange keepsakes, and when the master and mistress of the mansion rally forth, to provide gifts for the household—gifts which have each year been increasing in beauty and fitness, until the tempting offerings offered by our salesmen have reached a point of attraction no prudent considerations of price can resist.

There is a pleasant feeling of fellowship with all human kind in the remembrance that as we hail this new January with new hopes and kind wishes of "a happy new year" to all—and offerings, they never so humble, to those we love—so have generations and generations done before us.

Hopes have been disappointed and plans frustrated, and friends parted by hate or distance—but what of that? There is a happy disposition planted in each heart to believe that its own case is to be the exception; and so, in this firm individual persuasion, we will all fearlessly and merrily enter upon this opening year.

The first of January and its Observance. Gone! Folded away among the things of the Past, the year 1865 sleeps well. Turbulent, stormy, full of startling events, occupying one of the most interesting, and to us, one of the most important pages in the history of our country, it will live long in the memory of the world, and in the coming ages will appear as one of the wonders of the Nineteenth Century.

Born in the midst of war, the revolutionary year of 1865 was a year of unparalleled events. It was a year of blood and fire, of suffering and of triumph. It was a year that will live long in the memory of the world, and in the coming ages will appear as one of the wonders of the Nineteenth Century.

As the months passed, and just as the violets of Spring were bursting through the snow of the departing Winter, Peace smiled upon the year and made glad the then unhappy country. The cloud that shed so many tears of blood broke away, and as Mars sank to setting in the West the star of Peace arose in the East. The Rebellion was ended and the nation reunited; but the day set apart for a jubilee closed as gloomily as it began. The year 1865 was a year of blood and fire, of suffering and of triumph.

The year that was born amid so much confusion sank into the past as a babe that falls peacefully asleep on its mother's breast. The year was merry, but it had a

only, old age, it was born in the midst of anxiety, it died in the midst of quiet; and as nature cast its snowy mantle over the earth and enshrouded the dying day of the dead year with spotless white, so we cast the mantle of charity over its errors and its crimes, and remembering the lessons it has taught, "seek repentance for the Past by wooing the angel Virtue in the future."

THE NEW YEAR.

From the Old, we turn to the New Year. The day of its advent will be generally observed in the usual manner, and apparently with all the unanimity which marks the recent Christmas remarkable. From the preparations that have been made, we judge that most households will be open to visitors throughout the day and evening. The custom, though "time-honored," is perhaps, honored by nothing else, and would undoubtedly be more honored in the breach than in the observance.

A reunion of friends on the first day of the year might take place with propriety, and be both agreeable and entertaining; but when the occasion is used, as it now too often is, merely for the purpose of making a display of elaborate toilettes and refreshment-tables by one sex, and as a day of gossipy chit-chat and drinking by the other, it becomes both absurd and objectionable. Young men boast of the number of calls they make; women of the number they receive; both compare the new list with that of the year previous, and, when the list is done, retire in disgust at the heartless thing that has been passing under the guise of friendship, and weary of the sham that has so gloriously prevailed.

To the nation the year opens auspiciously; and although there are many who predict disaster and disease, there was never reason for such cheerfulness and hope. There is, however, no method by which the future can be told, no provision of events possible; but Peace has unfolded us in her happy embrace; Plenty sleeps in the soil, only waiting the sunshine of Summer and the labor of the husbandman to raise it into the laughing harvest-fields of Autumn, and Prosperity smiles upon us in promises that Time will certainly fulfill.

New-Year's Day at the Theaters.

That vigorous effort which was made at the theaters last Monday, to increase the merriment of Merry Christmas, will be surpassed to-day in dramatic exertion to inaugurate a Happy New-Year. Surpassed, because the flame of jollity which was kindled on that occasion, has become by this time, an all-devouring blaze of mirth. Good sherry and plum-pudding cease to stimulate that sort of a contagion at this season of the year; and these combustibles have not been spared during the past week. The incense of cheerfulness is high, and that is but a cold hearth which does not take fire. As to our theatrical friends, they are positively cracking—as you will see if you chance to visit the theaters any time to-day or to-night.

Dramatic receptions will be numerous—so that a laudable curiosity, as to this eclectic party, may easily be arranged. The day-receptions, indeed, will not be so frequent as on Christmas, but the players will all be "at home" in the evening, and everybody will be welcome.

At Barnum's Museum, of course, they will adhere to their usual custom on holidays, and crackle all the time. "Nearly every hour, day and evening," says their programme—and the promise will assuredly be fulfilled. This noble spectacle of industry and merit will involve, first the domestic drama of "The Orphan Boys of Hungary, or, The Charter of Olmütz," then the Circus; and always the giants, dwarfs, Albinos, Bohemian glass-blowers, and Batterly Family, typical of the fat and lean King of ancient Egypt, and illustrative of the faculty of the old proverb, which declares that marriages are made in Heaven. It is almost needless to add, that as long as there are sermons in stones and dry goods in everything the reverent but jovial pilgrim to Barnum's Museum will come away another and a better man. Perhaps there is a slight tinge of incoherence in this statement. If so, let it be explained by reference to the interesting fact that Christmas, like Peter Rishings, and the President's Message, comes but once a year.

At the New York Circus, likewise, mirth will take on the part of industry, and receipts will be given by day as well as by night—and, we may add, by Joe Penland. The mention of the name should suffice, considering how long and how intimately it has been associated with jollity. Many a childish mind has Joe Penland delighted. Many an hour of care has been whiled away, for grave minds and sad hearts, by his signs and cracks. It may be that his wit is a little venerable now. Long use, &c. But what of that? We have here a man who can still laugh at the old jokes, and say with Jacques that "merry's your only woe." Messrs. Nat. Austin and W. Corbett will assist at Joe's reception to-day; and Mr. James Robinson, who rides upon the Shakespearean principle that "the labor we delight in physics pain"—and also upon his beautiful race-horse, Glencoe—will appear in numerous startling feats of horsemanship. Another equestrian, by the way, a name of great fame, it is said, has been engaged at this Circus. His agile name is Mr. Levi J. North—a name which, we are assured, "is celebrated throughout the world." It will be inferred—and that correctly—that the interest of the Circus entertainment is not permitted to flag for want of novelty. Few places of amusement, indeed, are so genuine and so pleasant as that commodious, fire-proof, double octagon on Fourteenth.

Another day-reception will be held at the Old Bowery. These Wonderful Dogs, Lafayette and Tunder, which won so much popularity in the Oriental districts some time ago, have come back to the Sign of the Fox. Miss Fanny Herring also continues to play there. This afternoon, therefore, at 2 o'clock you may see these and other favorites in "The Forest of Bondy," "The Priety Cobbler," and "Valentine and Orson." Or, if you prefer to call in the evening, you may then see them in "The Golden Age," "Conner the Bash," and "The Forest of Bondy." The same entertainment will be repeated on Tuesday.

But the evening will probably witness the greatest amount of theatrical cracking. Every programme promises enjoyment.

Thus, the public's familiar friends, Sam and Mose, will receive calls at the Broadway Theater. Sam will appear for the fifth time. Both may we say will add here, will continue their respective appearances Saturday night, when the engagement of their extremely able representative, Mr. Chaffran, will close at this theater. And here it occurs to us also to add that the signal talent and careful culture of Mr. Chaffran could not be more strikingly illustrated than they are by his excellent penetration of two characters so utterly unlike each other, and so entirely unlike himself, as Mose and Sam. Nor is it too much to say that Mr. Chaffran's acting has made the success of two pieces, which, in themselves, are scarcely more than frolic. There will be a "Sam Martine" on Saturday, the thirteenth of the day performances and the last of the season. From the Broadway, as we have said, Mr. Chaffran goes to Wood's Theater (the new one, to be opened on the 15th inst., or earlier), wherein he will assume the principal part in Mr. De Walden's new piece, "Respecting this new piece we only say that it is 'Fairly Joyous'—it is a magnificent piece of scenery. Mr. William Hamilton has himself imported it from London, at great expense, bringing over, also, two artists especially to supplement its production upon the stage. All of the Hamilton Brothers are to appear in the new piece. They are engaged to fame, yet they still keep climbing; and they are among the most accomplished and wonderful acrobats in the world.

Mr. John Owen, as already noted, will succeed Mr. Chaffran at the Broadway Theater, where he will appear next Monday evening, in a new three-act version of "Satan Stings."

Reverting to the theatrical receptions of the evening, we note that our highly romantic acquaintance, the Count of Monte Cristo, will receive at the Olympic. He is an excellent host, and has a host of friends, whom he will go on receiving every evening until further notice.

Niblo's Garden has been trimmed up with "Green Boxes." The decoration is appropriate to the season. Mrs. Lucille Western, presides over the reception at the theater to-night, which will be at once aboriginal

and agricultural. "Green Boxes" will continue to flourish at Niblo's for some time to come; but will finally give way to new play by Mr. Gayler, in which Miss Western will assume the leading part. Mr. Clarke is to entertain the public to-night at the Winter Garden, in his capacity of Major Wellington De Boer, and also as Jacques Strop in "Robert Macaire." To-morrow evening being the last of his engagement, he will meet Toddes, on Wednesday evening Mr. Edwin Booth will reappear, in "Hamlet." The peculiar interest which must attach to that occasion will occur to every intelligent reader. Mr. Booth has long endured, in silence and retirement, the heavy burden of a dreadful calamity. He now resumes that active professional life which is indispensable to such a temperament as his. The American public, which is peculiarly kindly and sympathetic, will greet him with a cordial welcome—since, alike in his grief and in his effort to break the trammels of sorrow, they too have an equal part and a natural sympathy. At Walker's Theater, the performance to-night will consist of "Secrets Worth Knowing," an excellent old comedy, which is performed at this theater in excellent style. The representation is chiefly remarkable for Mr. Fisher's personation of Nicholas Rie, the aged and decrepit miser—a piece of acting which well deserves to be remembered among the gems of theatrical art that grace the New-York stage. "Love's Sacrifice" will be repeated on Tuesday and Friday. On Wednesday "Lost in London" will be acted; and on Thursday, for the first time this season, "The Poor Gentleman."

At Bryant's Minstrels the evening of New-Year's Day will be made merry by Mr. Charles Henry, the vocalist; Signor Jose Garatagal, the cornet-player; Dan Bryant himself, as a stump-orator; and the representation of "Black-Eyed William," and other facetious plays. Whoever calls will certainly be amused.

John Brougham has returned from much professional wandering in other States, and will appear at the Brooklyn Academy of Music to-night as Captain Cuttle in his own version of "Dombey and Son." His engagement there extends to Thursday. We improve the occasion to wish Brooklyn a Happy New-Year.

"The School for Scandal" will be represented at Miss Rushton's New-York Theater to-night, and every night until the scenery shall be prepared for something else.

It will thus be seen that all requisite preparations have been made to inaugurate, in the theatrical world, what we heartily wish to all the players, a Happy New-Year.

A Card.

The Common Council having tendered to the Hon. John T. Hoffman, Mayor elect, the use of the Governor's room in the City Hall for that purpose, he will be happy to receive his friends and fellow-citizens there on New-Year's Day, between the hours of 12 and 2 o'clock p. m.—Dated 30th December, 1865.

G. W. MOULTON, First Marshal.

An Invitation.

SIR: A special invitation is extended to the honorable men who have assisted in preserving our glorious Union to make a New-Year's call on

JOHN W. PARKER, No. 47 Ludlow-st.

New-York, Dec. 30, 1865.

DINNER AT THE TOMBS.—The butchers of Washington, Fulton and Centre Markets have contributed a large quantity of meats and poultry for the purpose of enabling the prisoners to have a suitable dinner to-day. Mr. James E. Conter, the warden of the prison, waited on the proprietors of the International, Paris, Crook's and Sweeney's Hotels, and they cheerfully consented to do the cooking. The supply is so bountiful that Mr. Conter believes he will be able to give the inmates about 500 in number, not only a breakfast but a supper. The following gentlemen were present in the matter: Hon. Isaac Bell, James R. Nicholson, O. W. Brennan, James Bowen, M. T. Brennan, Joseph Dowling, Edward Hogan, John McCoole, A. Oakley Hall, Henry Smith, Charles H. Hill, John Kelly, Robert Bonner, F. L. A. Boole, O. L. Stewart, Howe & Lahr, Isaac Wilkins, Thomas V. Boese, George Kellogg, R. Walters, Wm. L. A. McGrath, Mrs. H. Thorne, Messrs. S. H. Stuart, R. H. Johnston, Robert J. Brown.

MAYOR'S OFFICE.

First Marshal Morton's Report for the Year 1865.

Below will be found a statement of the business of the Mayor's Office transacted under the authority of First Marshal George W. Merzon. The first year of Mr. Morton's service showed an increase of the amount received for license fees, &c., over each of the two last preceding years, exceeding \$4,000 per annum; and the present statement exhibits even a more favorable result for the year just closed. The amounts received were: 1862, \$18,274.50; 1863, \$18,342.75; 1864, \$22,570.50. Mr. Morton was appointed by Mayor Guadalupe in January, 1864. About the first week in April, 1865, the Common Council transferred the issuing of licenses for taverns, second-hand dealers, junk dealers, intelligence offices, stages, hacks, hack and stage drivers, from the Mayor to the Mayor's Office, and the First Marshal in the Mayor's Office, where such service properly belonged—as all such licenses, as well as those issued by the First Marshal, were granted under the signature and by the authority of the Mayor, who and authority, also, to revoke at pleasure any license.

For the years 1862, 1863 and 1864 the receipts of the Clerk of the Common Council and of the First Marshal were as follows:

Table with columns: AMOUNT RECEIVED FOR LICENSES, ETC., BY Clerk of Com. By First Marshal, Total.

AMOUNT RECEIVED AT THE MAYOR'S OFFICE FOR LICENSES, ETC., UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE MAYOR, BY THE FIRST MARSHAL, GEORGE W. MERZON, FOR THE YEAR 1865.

Table with columns: License fees, Tavern licenses, Second-hand dealers, Junk dealers, Intelligence offices, Stages, Hacks, Hack and stage drivers, Total.

Grand total, \$27,389.00.

5,750 complaints disposed of by fines or otherwise. Amount received by Chief Clerk in Mayor's Office and paid to City Treasury, \$569.00. For the Sheriff's Office, \$100.00. For the formation of Juvenile Detachments, \$10,000.00. The number of complaints which have received the attention of the First Marshal were: 1864, 1,336; 1865, 1,670; increase, 334.

The amount received by Mr. Auld, Chief Clerk in the Mayor's Office, is appended to the statement of the First Marshal, showing the receipts to have been \$10,563, which have been disposed of as provided by law.

WITHDRAWN.—The H. O'clock night-boat from New-York to New Haven has been withdrawn for the Winter.

ALBANY.

Meeting of the Legislature.—Albany Hotels.—Changes in the Assembly Chamber.—Indications as to Speaker and Clerk of the House.—Senate Clerk.—Governor's Message, &c.

From Our Special Correspondent.

ALBANY, Dec. 31, 1865. The members of the Legislature are arriving and looking out for "ing-places." It was expensive living here last Winter, but more so this. Few members will be able to live at less than \$200 per week, and some are paying as high as \$60 or \$70. In a few instances, I hear that even higher rates than these last year paid. The Delavan charges his ordinary guests \$5 per day, I believe; how much the extraordinary ones are charged, I don't know, but presume anywhere from \$10 to \$30. As this is the only good hotel in Albany—at least, the only one known to be such by the public—and as the members are all here, the public reporters charge what they please. I don't know why they should stop at \$5 per day, they might as well charge \$10; indeed, I am surprised that they do not go straight up to these figures. The age is in fact a hotel here. They should therefore double their prices, at least where they eat. Thus they would double their receipts and quadruple their profits. The Delavan last year returned an income of \$25,000. Now, who does not think that it would be able to return double that amount? I suspect the only reason why it does not do it is that Congress Hall has been opened for the accommodation of a considerable number of these gentlemen are stopping there—among them, Lieut.-Gov. Alvord, Controller Hillhouse, Senators Folger and Humphrey, ex-Speaker Hoosier, &c.

Seriously, it is an outrage that such prices should be charged in the Albany hotels and boarding-houses. The idea appears to be entertained that money enough must be made out of the Legislature, and others visiting the city during the Winter, to maintain such a high standard of living. Some of the members threaten to reside in Troy, and one gentleman, hailing from the interior of the State, avows his intention to offer a resolution, after the adjournment of the Legislature, to adjourn the same to Troy city.

But enough on this subject. The Clerk of the last Assembly, Mr. Cushman, has been endeavoring to give the members additional "elbow room" in their Chamber. The accommodations of the Lobby will be accordingly limited, except they are admitted to the floor of the House. A hundred persons will fill it to overflowing, and half that number will do it, if they are ladies in ermine. The change may be an improvement, but I am afraid it is not entirely satisfactory to visitors. Certain it is that few will be able to make their way to the floor of the House. Whoever desires to see the Assembly in session should go to the gallery, for there is no room for the public elsewhere. However, if this "enlargement of the lobby" is not entirely satisfactory to visitors, certain it is that few will be able to make their way to the floor of the House. Whoever desires to see the Assembly in session should go to the gallery, for there is no room for the public elsewhere. 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