the flag, no feeling of security for their interests, no very great desire to continue under the Government than is necessarily compelled by coercion. If they had the power to establish a Confederacy before they were whipped they would have established it, and it is reasonable to believe that if they could establish it now they would do so but for their oaths of allegiance. These oaths were to the effect that they would support the Constitution; should they ever be required to do more, or should the Constitution be subverted, those oaths are worth nothing."

—We do not believe the Loyal Millions cherish resentment, or wrath, or any form of bitterness, toward Southrons who think thus and candidly say so. The defeated and overthrown cannot reasonably be expected to rejoice in their own discomfiture, or cherish a special affection for its instruments. But the ex-Rebels, on their part, ought to regard our position with equal justice. At great cost, by patient, protracted, vehement effort, we have won a great victory for what we venerate as the cause of Liberty, Humanity, and Nationality. We do not mean to fool it away. If its just, beneficent fruits are to be blighted, we say, "Let that be the work of other hands than ours!" We are sure the better portion of our late antagonists in the great conflict will appreciate our position.

The Hon. Marcus J. Parrott of Kansas, whose name we printed as the Kansas member of the "National Johnson Club," wishes it understood that it was used without authority, and that he does not approve what is termed "the President's policy."

Musical.

PROF. COMINGIO GAGLIANO'S CONCERT.

At his concert on Tuesday evening, at Irving Hall, Prof. Gagliano introduced an instrument upon which he performs with great dexterity and grace. This instrument is simply a box of glasses, tuned by the introduction of water, to the various intervals of the scale. It is absurd to call this instrument new, for we heard a similar one played upon in London thirty-five years ago. The tones are produced by keeping the fingers moist, and passing them over the rims of the glasses in a certain manner, to accomplish which with delicacy and certainty, requires long and patient practice. The tones produced are of an exquisitely melodious quality, and are susceptible of a positive and beautiful crescendo. Prof. Gagliano has acquired unerring skill in the manipulation of these glasses, producing the tones with promptness and rapidity, executing delicate cadenzas and double notes, and throwing over all a more delicate and exquisite grace and expression than we thought possible to produce from such an instrument. Nothing more beautiful than the tones produced can well be imagined, and the performance seemed to give the greatest satisfaction to the audience, for every piece was not only warmly applauded, but loudly encored. The Professor should, however, be more particular in tuning his glasses, for nearly all the upper tones were exceedingly flat, which militated greatly against our personal enjoyment. The novelty, however, is really a most pleasing one, and under the skillful hands of the Professor, cannot fail to delight all who listen to its bewitching tones. We should advise that, at the next performance, a square piano-forte shall be used, for tones of the grand piano are altogether too loud for combination with the delicate intonations of the "Cassa Armonica."

Mdlle. Artolani sang the aria from "La Sonnambula" very brilliantly and effectively, and did full justice to her share of the concerted music. Signor Antonucci sang with excellent taste, using his very fine voice with judgment and effect.

Signor Mazzolenl, the tenor glorioso of the Maretzek company, mistakes the area of Irving Hall for that of the late Academy of Music. He uses the same for both places, but what was effective in the Academy amounts to positive shouting in Irving Hall. Besides, stage and concert singing are essentially different in their requirements. In the concert-room we expect more grace, more delicacy and more artistic refinement, and Signor Mazzolenl, with his bountiful gift, would do well to study these requirements if he would sustain a first-class position as a concert singer. Signor Gagliano will soon announce another concert.

SIGNOR FOSSATI'S MATINEE.

Signor Fossati's Matinee did not take place as announced, in consequence of the sickness of Mdlle. de Gebele. It will, however, take place to-day at Wallack's Theater.

A Card from Max Maretzek.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—ITALIAN OPERA.

[This establishment does not advertise in The New-York Herald.]

This establishment has been burned to the ground, but as I have no intention of soliciting pity or charity, and an incapable of using such a horrible catastrophe (which deprived several persons of their lives, and hundreds of the means of supporting their families) as a favorable opportunity *to advertise my business*, I will abstain from commenting on my present losses, and from *heralding* my future movements.

However, in order to allay any apprehensions on the part of artists, orchestral players, choristes, and other employes, I deem it consistent to declare that all engagements made for the next Fall and Winter seasons remain in full force, and that operations will commence early in October next.

The public's faithful servant,

Staten Island, May 24, 1866. MAX MARETZEK.

The Theaters.

Mrs. Wood will take her farewell benefit at the Olympic theater to-night. "The Loan of a Lover" and "Cinderella e la Comare" will be acted. Mrs. Wood appearing as Gertrude and as Cinderella. In both characters she is exceedingly brilliant and winning. The occasion, therefore, cannot fail to be interesting. Gertrude is a character especially adapted to bring out Mrs. Wood's exuberant spirit of fun and mischief. It was as Gertrude that she first appeared on the American stage, and she will depart as she came, like a sunbeam. There is a certain sadness in the thought that we are to lose the best burlesque actress on our stage; but it is always wise to make a parting merry, and to say good-by with a smile. We trust the audience at the Olympic to-night will be worthy of the occasion, and we wish the amplest success, now and hereafter, to the beneficiary.

Mr. Chanfrau is to play at the Brooklyn Academy of Music to-night and to-morrow night. "The Streets of New-York" will be acted to-night, and "Sam" and "Moses" to-morrow.

Mr. John Brougham will succeed Mr. and Mrs. Williams at the Winter Garden, appearing there in his own familiar comedy of "Playing With Fire." A benefit performance is announced for next Monday evening at this theater, when "The Colleen Bawn" will be represented. Mr. C. Walcot, jr., is the beneficiary.

"The Fairy Circle," "Born to Good Luck" and "An Hour in Seville" are the pieces that will be played at the Winter Garden this evening, for the benefit of Mr. and Mrs. Barney Williams. As it is their farewell benefit, their admirers should gather in force.

Bounty-Jumping—The Conkling and Fry Investigation.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

SIR: I hope the Committee to investigate the matter of difference between Roscoe Conkling and Provost-Marshal-General Fry will sift the whole matter of bounty-jumping to the bottom, when such a mass of rottenness will be developed as will astound the people who are to be taxed so heavily to pay the moneys thus squandered or worse. In a recent conversation with one who enlisted in March, 1865, and spent a few days on Hart's Island, he told some instances that came to his knowledge there; one of which I will mention, believing it to be strictly true, or that my informant did. He said that the bounty-jumpers bought furloughs of officers and recruited in New-York, until they made immense sums, one with whom he became acquainted boasting that he had cleared $16,000, with which he had purchased a house in Brooklyn.

If another Committee could be formed to investigate the matter of enlistments in the navy for the Mississippi Squadron, another nest of iniquities might be developed. The Secretary of the Navy undertook to do so, and sent a board of officers to do so in the Spring of 1865; but, before they had got to work, some means were found to squelch it. A landsman got commissioned for the Mississippi Squadron and sent to take charge of the recruiting rendezvous at Cincinnati, and by some wonderful coincidence his son was made paymaster of the receiving ship. They did well for themselves, but the father finally resigned to take an Indian Agency, where he no doubt is doing better—for himself. Ask the Cherokee or some of the other Indians in their vicinity if one is not.

ONE WHO HAS NOT BEEN SOLD.

The Cholera.

The following is a statement of the hospital for May 24: Received May 22, Geerhard Voz, aged 2 years, of Denmark; Anne Potter aged 17 years, of Ireland. Died May 23, Anne Potter. Remaining under treatment, 44.

D. H. BISSELL, Deputy Health Officer.

Estimates of the Cotton Crop.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

SIR: I am glad that you are in favor of a liberal estimate for the next crop of cotton, and I will give you one or two facts I learned in 1865, while going down the Mississippi River. I met two planters from different parts of Arkansas, and one spoke of the ease with which he worked his crop the year before, by the aid of some new implements from the North. He said that he did himself, with one horse, as much as three men could have done in the old way, and raised more to the acre than was done by the old slave-working process.

At the other plantation the owner had got Irish laborers and improved machinery from the North, and although he had some difficulty in getting his laborers accustomed to the work, yet he felt confident of making a good crop by the use of the improved implements, at a less proportional expense than under the old system. What I saw on the two plantations was doubtless done on hundreds of others. I saw a letter from Alabama, in a late number of *The Country Gentleman*, in which the writer spoke of the new implements from Illinois that he was using, and how much more he would accomplish than with the old implements and old plan of working. Is it reasonable to suppose that he is the only wise man in that State?

NO HUMBUG FOR SPECULATION.

MISSOURI.

The Rev. Dr. Stuart Robinson—The Board of Publication of the Old School General Assembly—Memorial from a Convention of Ministers and Ruling Elders—Peace to be Perpetuated—The Louisville Presbytery—Protest by the Rev. Dr. Van Dyke of Brooklyn—Its Character—Another Protest—Speech of Dr. Boardman—Proceedings of the New School Assembly.

From Our Special Correspondent.

ST. LOUIS, May 21, 1866.

Dr. Stuart Robinson, late of Canada, and now representative of the Louisville Presbytery in its controversy with the General Assembly, attracted large audiences yesterday morning and evening. In both sermons he disappointed his hearers by omitting all direct allusions to the General Assembly and to the "lost cause." The nearest to it was an indifferent denunciation of Pontius Pilate for delivering the Saviour to an infuriated mob, with strong emphasis on the outrages of mobs in general. The Rebel Dr. is undoubtedly an able man, and preached a good sermon, but for all that he will not be admitted among the faithful of the Old School Church.

This morning the session of the Old School rather increases than diminishes the complications growing out of the action of the Louisville Presbytery concerning the so-called Declaration and Testimony. Dr. Van Dyke of Brooklyn put a large finger into the pie, and is now the acknowledged head of the pro-Slavery conservative party in the Assembly, dividing the honors with the St. Louis Rebels, who are at present under censure of the Assembly for ignoring its past orders. The first proceedings of the Assembly deferred the reports presented in regular order. The Report of the Board of Publication shows receipts for the year ending March 1, $159,981 37, including a balance carried forward from last year of $21,432 47. Expenditures, $146,214 16. The receipts for colportage were $26,735 72; expenses, $27,813 29. The report contains the following in relation to the work in the Southern States:

"Toward the close of the year, colporteurs have been appointed in various portions of the Southern States; so recently, however, that we have not yet received sufficient reports to enable us to judge of their progress and prospects. So far as we now know, they seem to be in general well received among the people, and are likely to put in circulation a large amount of our publications. The greatest difficulty in their way is the extreme scarcity of money. So far as the Board is able to furnish its publications gratuitously, they are not only cordially received, but eagerly sought after. Large numbers of the Presbyterian people there are left nearly destitute of all religious reading. The Board hopes, in the progress of the year, to have a large number of colporteurs at work in the South."

A memorial was presented from the Convention of Ministers and Ruling Elders who responded to the call of Dr. R. J. Breckinridge to adopt measures for perpetuating peace in the Church. It is a long document and justly characterizes the defections existing in the Church as the out-growth of the Rebellion. It declares that the elements of anarchy should be excluded from the church organization, and that the Assembly shall adhere to its past action and enforce obedience to its decrees. It refers to the Declaration and Testimony and the election of Stuart Robinson by the Louisville Presbytery as an insulting defiance to the church at large. The memorial closes with three recommendations to the General Assembly, and says the Presbyterian Church had no alternative consistent with safety, with self-respect, with the righteousness of its past conduct, with fidelity to truth or Christian duty, or with obedience to God, but to accept the renunciation of these deluded men, to testify against their sinful acts, and to keep her skirts clear of their miserable doings. Three great duties remain to her, connected with the subject, and upon the right performance of which a great reward awaits her, and upon the neglect of which, trouble and confusion:

First: To purify herself from the widely-diffused poison of the time, which, in a form more or less virulent, is diffused through all the churches, and to do this, as remembering that the discipline of the church is of God, and is an audience of mercy to backsliders, and stands related to the testimony of God's Word, in the same manner as the sacraments thereof, to the promises of God.

Second: To hold out, and open wide, the arm of her love to every child of God in the Southern States who has been a victim and not a willing partaker of the sins against God, against his Church, against their country, and against which Divine Providence has testified by such severe and such righteous judgments.

Third: To proceed at once with a zeal proportioned to the urgency of the case to redeem the solemn promise made by the first General Assembly after the schism, organized in 1861, that she would wholly disregard its existence, and as God might make her, would strive to recover all she might lose by it, and to extend and to establish more and more throughout the South the precious system of Divine truth unto the liberty and into the power of which God had called her by His grace. Let the revenge we will ask of God be a double share in the work of saving those who have cast us out as doubly vile.

[Signed in behalf of 111 ministers by Dr. W. D. Howard, President, and W. W. Colony and J. G. Reasor, Clerks.]

The memorial, after a brief discussion, was referred to the Committee on Bills and Overtures.

Dr. Van Dyke of Brooklyn then read the following paper, which was similarly referred:

This Assembly earnestly deprecates the continuance of the the division now existing between the Presbyterian Churches of the Northern and Southern States together with the strife among ourselves growing out of this division as a ruinous and unnecessary schism between brethren who maintain a common faith, tending to perpetuate the evil passions guaranteed by civil war, to prevent the return of the harmony and good-will so essential to the prosperity of both church and State, and to dissipate in futile contentions the resources and moral influence of the church, which might be employed in common efforts for the defense and propagation of the Gospel. In the spirit of reconciliation and brotherly kindness the Assembly desires the restoration of the unity of the church on the basis of the principles upon which she was originally organized and upon which, under the Divine blessing she so long and so abundantly prospered. Among these principles we regard the following: 1st. God alone is God of the conscience, and hath left it free for the doctrines and commandments of men which are in anything contrasting to His word or beside it in matters of faith and worship.

Form of Government, 1st and 1st.

Second: Any church power, whether exercised by the body in general or in the way of representation by delegates, authority is only ministerial and declarative, that is to say, the Holy Scriptures are the only rule of faith and manners, and no church judiciary ought to pretend to make laws to bind the conscience in virtue of their own authority, but all their doctrines shall be founded upon the recorded will of God.

Form of Government, 1st and 7th.

Third: Synods and Councils are to handle and conclude nothing which is not ecclesiastical, and are not to intermeddle with civil affairs which concern the Commonwealth, unless by way of petition in cases extraordinary or by way of advice for satisfaction of conscience, if they be thereunto required by the civil magistrate.

Confession of Faith—31st and 4th.

Fourth: All Synods and Councils since the days of the Apostles, whether general or particular, may err and may have erred, therefore their decisions are not to be made the rule of faith and practice, but to be used as a help in both.

Fifth: Since the powers that be are ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to pray for magistrates, to honor their persons, to pay them tribute and other dues, to obey their lawful commands, and to be subject to their authority for conscience sake.

Confession of Faith—23d and 4th.

In accordance with these principles, and with a view to promote peace upon the basis therein set forth, it is

Resolved, that the deliverances of the five preceding Assemblies on the state of the country, including the orders of the Assemblies in regard to the reception of presbyteries and churches in the Southern States not having been transmitted to the presbyteries for their approbation, according to the requirements of the Form of Government, chapter 12, section 6, are not established as constitutional rules, and are not obligatory upon the church, whatever may be their value as part of the past history of the church, and as an embodiment of the opinions of the venerable Assembly from which they emanated. These deliverances form no part of our standard of faith and order, and their adoption cannot be lawfully insisted on as a term of church membership or ministerial communion.

It will be observed that the former is an ingeniously drawn paper and proves Dr. Van Dyke to be a strategist of no mean character. There is in it an implied censure of the church for not sufficiently trusting President Johnson, and it is understood to be the fruit of a caucus held in Dr. Brookes's study on Saturday p. m., wherein Stuart Robinson and other big lights were present. A motion was made to lay it on the table but the majority of the assembly in spite of the charges to the contrary is eminently fair and honorable and has no disposition to cut off Mr. Van Dyke and his handful without a hearing. It will be seen that this set were not satisfied with the paper, for the next thing in order was a second rebel paper.

The Moderator announced a protest signed by Dr. Stuart Robinson, Dr. S. R. Wilson and Elder Hardy of the Louisville Presbytery, in which they reviewed the action of the General Assembly against them and sought to vindicate their Presbytery from the charge of disloyalty. The protest also referred to the action last year and declared it was not binding on the churches. The protest wound up by declaring that the signers would withdraw from all further participation in the Assembly where their rights been trampled upon.

Dr. Boardman, who had obtained the floor on Saturday for a speech to-day, now prepared to let loose his thunderbolts upon the poor Radicals, who sat quivering beneath his gaze. He commenced by thanking God the days of Secession were over, and the Old Flag waved over the whole country. After this pill to the Union men, he gave several to the Rebel side, by assailing Dr. Thomas for his speech on Saturday (which speech is the town talk to-day, and a terrible sting in the side of the Secessionists). He was glad to welcome men from both armies into his church, and thought they should not be excluded merely for being Rebels. Referring to Dr. Sherman's remark that there had been a time when he was in such a minority that the vote stood 100 to one against him, the speaker now said that the day would arrive when the 50 who are now arrayed against the 200 would triumph. He complimented Dr. Brookes for wanting to share the martyrdom of the Louisville brethren, and thought it was wrong for Dr. Thomas to speak in such a sarcastic vein. It was an outrage to exclude men without giving them a hearing. The Rev. Mr. Crozier gave him a severe rebuke at this point by reading from the Book of Discipline, wherein it is stated that a church member being accused of irregularity may be suspended from his privileges until the matter is decided. This being a parallel case to that of the Louisville Presbytery, Dr. Boardman had nothing to say on that score; but proceeding to lament the decline of American liberty, was met by applause in the gallery. This encouraged him as he thenceforth talked in the good old Conservative strain, and seemed much affected by the sentiments of the three Presbyterian churches in this city. The learned Doctor only said one good thing during his whole speech, and that was wherein he supposed a case of a brother being charged with any offense as, for instance, money getting and then being excluded without a trial. He said such a course would prevent Presbyterians from sending delegates, and even New-Jersey could not send a man here to move the previous question. This was directed at Dr. McLean and caused some merriment. Upon his conclusion the Hon. Samuel Galloway, a well-known Radical from Columbus, Ohio, obtained the floor for to-morrow, when there will be more Conservative tears shed.

Another chapter in the proceedings was also written. The Judiciary Committee, to whom was referred the appeal of Dr. R. J. Breckinridge from the Synod of Kentucky, and the complaint of Dr. Millan against the Presbytery of Louisville reported in favor of trying them together. The report was adopted.

The St. Louis brethren got a small dose also. The Indiana Committee reported in favor of sustaining the appeal of the Rev. S. J. Nicolls against the Synod of Missouri in relation to their action on the declaration and testimony, and on motion the report was adopted censuring the Missouri Synod for the disobedience of the General Assembly decrees.

In the New School Assembly to-day, the morning session was devoted to receiving reports. The most interesting was that of the Board of Foreign Missions. In explanation of this report Dr. Clark spoke of the unanimity prevailing in the New School Church as an evidence of God's goodness. In the course of his remarks he said:

By His Providence and spirit he has been dealing with our Church in a most remarkable manner, and in a manner of preparation. An aggressive army must have few *impediments*, and Slavery was an impediment, which hanging upon any church, unfits that church for the great aggressive work which Christ has to do in this world. From the impediment, by the good providence of our ascended Lord this Church has been delivered, and from every intestine conflict. Then, by the good providence of God, our church has been planted on just the spot where it can have the easiest access to every part of this continent and the world. Christ, if we do not reject him by a bad spirit, must enter into our church, and fill it with His temper, and what is the temper of Christ, but just the temper of missions? What is the temper of Christ, but just the largeness of benevolence which this work calls for?

A communication was also received from the United Presbyterian church, through Dr. Harper, which conveyed fraternal salutations to the New School brethren. Among the items in the communication it was stated of the United Presbyterian church that

"In all matters of faith and government, and practice, we are closely identified with the larger bodies of Presbyterians in this country. We have 51 Presbyteries, seven Synods, one General Assembly—constituted like your own, of delegates from the Presbyteries. We have a Presbytery in Oregon, India, and Egypt; missionaries in Syria, India, China, Egypt, and ——. We have 30 foreign missionaries, 120 home missionaries, 40 to 50 laborers among the freedmen, chiefly in Tennessee and Mississippi; four theological seminaries; two colleges; 656 ministers; 79 licentiates; 91 students of theology; 650 congregations; six permanent boards, viz.: Home Missions, Foreign Missions, Publication, Church Extension, Education, and Freedmen. We publish three weekly religious papers, one monthly periodical, and have a printing press in the city of Alexandria, in Egypt. We raised for all the boards last year $180,000."

There is quite a small excitement among the New School Commissioners relative to the Church Erection fund, which amounts to $30,000. One party desires to open the treasury a little wider so as to aid small churches everywhere, while another party is opposed to any change in the present regulation.

The Iron Mountain Railroad Company has invited the Assemblies to visit the Iron Mountain on Thursday, and the New School Assembly has accepted the invitation.

S. R. W.

MINING ON THE PACIFIC COAST.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

SIR: As each steamer which, for the last two years, has arrived from the Pacific Coast, has brought a greater or less number of adventurers, who continually throng the offices and business marts of New-York and other Eastern cities with so-called "mines for sale," the undersigned, for the benefit of capitalists and others interested, beg leave to submit the following facts, derived from our own experience and observation, and from the statements of all the thoroughly trustworthy men whom we have met west of the Rocky Mountains.

We will first give a brief statement, showing how it happened that the attention of these adventurers was first directed to this market.

It is probably well known to most of your readers that, from about 1850 to 1863, an intense excitement on the subject of mines and mining "feet" possessed the entire population of the Pacific Coast, from the most conservative capitalist and business men, down to the most ignorant day-laborer and kitchen-girl.

The discovery of some rich ore at different points on the great Comstock lode in Nevada was the immediate cause of this undue excitement. Unscrupulous men took advantage of this state of the public mind to bring into market and dispose of a very large number of "wild cat" mines, many of which never had any real location, except in the fertile brain or on the worthless scrip of these swindlers. Everybody bought "feet," because everybody had the fever.

But, from the nature of the case, this state of things could not last long. The excitement reached its height, and began to subside, and with it went down at a break-neck speed the nominal value of these nominal mines. The natural result followed. Everybody lost their money, and with it their confidence in the swindlers, who, finding their "occupation gone" on the Pacific slope, with eager haste came swarming over two oceans in search of new fields to devastate. The time was propitious; large amounts of money had been made in mercantile and other business transactions in the East, and almost every man had something which he was ready to invest in "a rich gold" or "silver mine."

The manner in which these parties proceed to dispose of their so-called mines is various. Sometimes they bring with them rich specimens which they call "samples" of the "ore" in the ledge they are anxious to sell; but which, in fact, bear no more resemblance to it than rich ore does to barren quartz. Their specimens are procured from some of the rich mines on the coast; and, in 99 cases out of 100, when their ledge comes to be properly examined and tested, it will be found to be planted, or, in mining parlance, "salted" with the same ore.

At other times, they show true specimens from their ledge, which contain a large amount of base metals, with scarce a trace of either gold or silver; but which they loudly claim to be very rich in both. In these cases they speak very flippantly of the folly of getting assays made; asserting truly that it is not safe to make an investment, until a satisfactory result is obtained from rock taken from the ledge and worked by the ordinary mill process. They thus seize upon a generally well-known truth, and by prevarication make it the vehicle of falsehood and deception; for while it is true that rock may assay largely, and yet the ordinary mill process fail to get enough out of it to pay expenses, yet it is not true that rock shown to be barren by assay ever yielded a rich return when run through a mill. To carry the deception through, they trust to their own or their associates' shrewdness and rascality to enable them to deceive and cheat the purchasers or their agent, by "salting" or mixing rich ore or amalgam with the test sample as it is reduced in the mill.

In almost every instance, they misstate the size and character of their ledges, and the feasibility of working the same as regards wood and water, and other conveniencies.

Another dodge which these adventurers sometimes adopt is to select a strictly honest man to represent and dispose of their so called property in the East. He is either a man who has never seen the ledges himself, or, having seen them, is no judge of their value. He receives his specimens and statements from others, and, acting in perfect good faith, he starts off to promulgate a series of falsehoods, which would put to blush the most inveterate liar upon record.

To inspire confidence, they will generally recommend the sending out of an agent to examine the so-called mining property before making the purchase; trusting, as we have said above, to their skill in villainy, either to deceive or buy him, so as to secure a report favorable to their interests. This is the more easily accomplished, as the agent, if honest, is more inclined to trust the statements made to him on the ground by interested parties, who represent themselves as practical miners, than to his own unaided judgment; particularly if, as in most cases is true, he has had little experience in the business of mining, and has yet to learn that he is dealing with men, a majority of whom are destitute of the principles of common honesty.

Their plan usually is to require from $10,000 to $100,000 down on completing the trade (which amount they very modestly call a mere nominal sum) magnanimously consenting to receive the largest part of their pay in "stock," which they are careful to impress upon the minds of the purchasers, is of infinitely more importance to them than the paltry sum of money they receive.

The undersigned have spent most of the past year in familiarizing themselves, as far as possible, with the mining interests of California and Nevada. They have also learned much through trustworthy sources of the mining operations in other portions of the Pacific coast; and they can safely state that, so far as their experience and information has extended, not one ledge which has been sold in the Atlantic States has proved a success.

Most of these men bring with them commendatory letters, which is readily accounted for by the fact that such letters are much more easily obtained from a certain class of prominent men resident on the Pacific Coast than from any other business men on the continent.

No company should purchase an undeveloped ledge. Even if there is a certain amount of gold or silver in the outcroppings, there is no certainty that these metals will be found in paying quantities below a certain depth. As it is impossible to see under ground, the best agents, mining engineers and geologists may err in judgment, and ultimately fail of success. Parties who have legitimate mining property for sale, do not usually object to a company's prospecting the same, either by striking shafts or running tunnels, as may be most advantageous, before deciding to make the purchase.

It may be inquired, how a good mine ought to be obtained? We answer that, in our opinion, a company should select an agent in whom they have entire confidence. Such agent ought to understand his business, be *strictly* honest, and have some practical judgment. He should also have a *carte blanche* to use his own discretion either to invest in any particular mining property or not, as he may deem best. If a company have no agent whom they can trust to this extent, then they should break up their organization and let mining alone.

This agent should proceed to the mining districts of the Pacific; visit the mines and mills, and familiarize himself with their workings. Then, if he cannot purchase a developed mine, let him seek out a *well defined* ledge which has *rich ore* in *paying quantities* on the surface or top, and make a contingent contract with the owners to purchase or abandon the same after he shall have completed his examinations. He should then sink a shaft 150 or 200 feet on the ledge, and run drifts or tunnels either way from the bottom of the shaft. Several tons of ore, being an average in richness of all the rock taken from the ledge, should be worked by the ordinary mill process. If the yield is satisfactory, the ledge of sufficient width, and there is plenty of wood and water near by, and all other circumstances are propitious, the contract may then be consummated, and the purchase money paid over with comparatively little risk to the company.

There is a large amount of capital in San Francisco seeking investment. Agents examine the different mining districts as soon as they are discovered, and the best mines are usually secured and worked by capital on the Pacific side.

Neither is there any trouble in getting the founderies to build quartz mills for poor men, if known to be honest, provided they have a good mine—the mine itself is considered a sufficient security.

The former superintendent of the Gould & Curry mine remarked to one of the undersigned that "the capitalists in the East must think we are fools on this side to send our good mines to them for sale. We have agents traveling constantly to secure the best of this kind of property for ourselves."

In our opinion the only way for Eastern men to succeed in mining is to adopt the same course, and avoid the men arriving at this metropolis three times a month, with "wild cat" mines for sale.

We do not, of course, include all residents of the Pacific slope in this list of adventurers. We are happy to state that we have there made the acquaintance of many true and honorable men, whose integrity is unquestioned, all of whom are anxious to arrest these frauds, knowing that all such transactions must ultimately react, and injure the whole country. The following quotation from a letter written by one of the officers of the Bank of California, dated April 30, 1866, and handed to one of the undersigned, is a true illustration of the feelings of legitimate business men on the subject:

"* * * * We do hope our Eastern friends will not allow themselves to be humbugged by interested parties, and put their money into absolutely worthless property. We have plenty of good mines, have, as yet, just begun to prosper. These innumerable humbugs do our State great harm. Please encrace all opportunities that present themselves to check such operations." * * * *

In closing this already too long communication, we wish to state that we are actuated solely by considerations of public good. We believe it to be a patriotic duty for our capitalists, in the present financial condition of our country, to do all they can toward developing our mineral resources; but, in doing so, we trust that hereafter more care will be exercised, and that they will invest their money in legitimate enterprises.

ENSIGN BENNETT,
J. G. BALDWIN,
BENJ. FENTON.

New-York, May 21, 1866.

Billiards.

Two exhibitions of billiards were given yesterday afternoon and evening at Cooper Institute for the benefit of Mr. Lake, a veteran in the profession. A large number of players from New-York and other cities contributed their services, including Messrs. Carme, Dion, Goldthwait, McDevitt, Tieman, and Fox. The arrangements were in the capable hands of Mr. Phelan, and a very considerable amount was received from the sales of tickets. The great attraction of last evening was a game between Messrs. Carme and Joseph Dion for a purse of $250, 750 points, caroms, push shot barred, on a carom table, with balls 2½ inches diameter. Previously to this, Mr. Phelan and Mr. Lake played a game of 100 points, carom, using the mace instead of the cue, which was won by the latter.

The game between Messrs. Carme and Dion began at 8:10, and occupied exactly two hours. The first part of it was a very interesting and brilliant display of billiards. Mr. Dion's play was of a higher order than that by which he beat Derry for the championship on Wednesday evening. To say that it was, nevertheless, decidedly inferior to M. Carme's, is only to say what everybody saw and admitted; and we presume there was nobody in the hall who had a doubt that Carme would win the game out of hand. But when the score stood: Carme, 491, Dion, 453, and the former, after a run of 20, had all the balls in the lower right-hand corner, with the certainty of a long run before him, his play was strangely interrupted by a decision of the Referee that he had failed to count. The referee was Mr. Gershom B. Hubbell, champion-player of Connecticut. We do not suppose he was guilty of an intentional unfairness toward M. Carme, but his decision was palpably wrong. The writer of this saw the count with his own eyes, and at least a dozen gentlemen sitting about him nearer to the table than the referee, who saw it. Against such an accumulation of testimony, the fact that Mr. Hubbell did not see the count goes for nothing. His decision, moreover, was based upon an inference and not upon the evidence of his eyes, as he admitted by going to the table after the shot to examine the balls, and basing his decision upon their then position. This erroneous and inexcusable decision left the balls to Dion in such a way that they became "jawed" by a single shot. When that was accomplished, he had no difficulty in making the 297 required to finish the game; and could have made 2,970 with equal ease. Before the referee's decision, offers of $100 to $25 that Carme would win found no takers. After the game, a proposition from Mr. Carme's friends that he should play Dion this morning at 10 o'clock for $1,000 a side was declined—and very wisely declined. Mr. Dion will return to Montreal with the championship, and with other well won honors, but we think it will be found quite impossible to induce him to risk his laurels in another contest with Carme. We are happy to add that Mr. Dion, with a proper sense of the purely accidental nature of his victory, and with a generosity that does him great credit, handed over to Mr. Lake the purse of $250, which fortune had bestowed on him.

FIRES.

Fire on Broadway.

MESSRS. SCRIBNER'S & CO.'S PUBLISHING-HOUSE AND OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS DAMAGED—LOSS ABOUT $10,000.

About 12½ o'clock this morning a fire broke out in the building No. 654 Broadway. The house is four stories high, occupied as follows: First floor, Chas. Scribner & Co.'s book-dealers, recently removed from No. 124 Grand-st.; second floor, J. C. Morse, window shade manufacturer; third and fourth floors, J. R. Cook, furniture warerooms.

The fire was discovered at the head of the first flight of stairs by a policeman, and promptly extinguished. This had hardly been accomplished when flames were seen issuing from the windows of the fourth floor. Firemen were soon upon the ground, and the third floor was flooded with water to prevent the flames from progressing downward, and then attention was turned to the stories above.

The inflammable nature of the material with which they were stored, however, soon revealed itself, and the fire burst fiercely from the windows and cast a light upon the city which gave it an appearance similar to that produced by the conflagration of Monday night. There was no hope from the first of saving any portion of the contents of the upper floors, and the contiguous buildings were so seriously threatened that the firemen for a brief period devoted all their efforts and skill to them.

After drenching No. 656, occupied by Benton & Smith, carriage furnishers, a fine large stream was thrown directly upon the burning building—the first that seemed to affect the fire in the least. From this moment the destroyer was powerless. We believe no damage was done afterward by the flames, although the goods on the lower floor suffered severely from water.

The amount of loss could not be ascertained. The contents of the upper stories of the house, and that portion of the building, were utterly destroyed. No. 656 was somewhat damaged by water, and Scribner & Co.'s loss from this cause will doubtless be very heavy. The loss of Mr. Morse, from the same reason, will be considerable; nevertheless, we believe that $10,000 will cover all the damage.

The origin of the fire is of course a mystery. The building seems to have been fired in two or three places; but nothing definite is known concerning it. The amount of insurance could not be ascertained, and from the indications we judge the owners of the property were in blissful ignorance of the destruction then going on in Broadway.

Within an hour after the fire was discovered all danger of further damage from that source was over. The manner in which it was managed was excellent. The confusion so prominent at events of this kind was wholly wanting, and beyond the noise of the engines, the crackling of the flames, and an occasional shout from the officers of the fire companies, there was no noise.

The bright light drew a large crowd of spectators whom the police kept at a safe distance, leaving the fire and the surrounding buildings to those whose duty it was to quench the one and protect the other.

AT NO. 815 BROADWAY.

A fire occurred yesterday evening, between 4 and 5 o'clock, at the dyeing establishment No. 815 Broadway, occasioned by some benzine becoming ignited. The fire was speedily extinguished by William Fox, an employé of the establishment, and Officer James Waldron of the Broadway Squad, both of whom were badly burned. The stock and building were damaged to the extent of about $200, and are fully insured.

ATTEMPT AT SUICIDE.—A man named Joseph Collins, 25 years of age, formerly attached to one of the New-York volunteer regiments, cut his throat with a razor yesterday afternoon, at No. 133 Crosby-st. The cause of the rash act was jealousy. A woman named Margaret Reilly, with whom he formerly lived, had, during his absence at the war, gone to live with another man. Collins endeavored to persuade her to return to him, and she refused, whereupon he attempted to destroy his life. He was taken to Bellevue Hospital by the Fourteenth Precinct Police. The wound will probably prove fatal.

THE AFRICAN M. E. CONVENTION.—Yesterday was the fifth day of the Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and the afternoon was set apart for the anniversary exercises of the schools of the denomination. At 3½ p. m. the church was thronged with the children of all the institutions connected with the colored Methodist communion, and the pastors, superintendents and teachers. The services, which consisted of prayer, singing and catechetical exercises, commenced at 4 o'clock. Addresses were delivered by Superintendent Bishop, Bishop Brooke, the Rev. Dr. Thompson, Edward Clark, General Superintendent of Schools, and Edward L. Fatto.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.—Margaret Schryver, a nurse at the Orphan's Home in East Forty-ninth-st., aged 60 years, attempted to cut her throat with a razor on Wednesday. Her wound was dressed, and she was removed to St. Luke's Hospital. Her injuries will not prove fatal.

STARKWEATHER'S CASE—PETITION FOR COMMUTATION—TOWN MEETING IN MANCHESTER.—*The Hartford Courant* publishes some new developments in the history of Albert L. Starkweather, which are not calculated to induce the Legislature to look with favor upon the petitions of Dr. Bushnell and others for a commutation of the murderer's sentence. The statements concerning the past history of the culprit are as follows:

In 1860 he went to North Carolina to teach school, and it was expected he would remain there several months, but, after a short absence, he suddenly returned, and gave no satisfactory reason why he came back so soon. Shortly after he commenced the erection of the dwelling where the tragedy occurred, and while it was in progress, made certain statements to Mr. Thrall, the builder, which that gentleman has now divulged. He stated as a reason why he returned from North Carolina, that he got into difficulty there and killed a man. Letters have been sent to the place which he left making inquiries relative to this affair, and replies are expected soon. It is stated, also, that Starkweather admitted to Leonard, the prisoner in the jail who notified Mr. Fenn, the jailer, of the plot to take his life, that the murder of his mother and sister was not the first that he had committed, that he poisoned his uncle Buckland's family in Manchester, intending to make a clean job of it, and set fire to Horace White's barn, beside some other incidents in his life which Leonard, for the present, withholds.

The selectmen of Manchester, in view of the above facts and the petitions for commutation, and in response to the request of several citizens, called a town meeting which was held last Saturday afternoon, to see whether the town would take any action in the matter. Horace White, esq., was appointed Moderator, and Dr. Wm. C. Scott, clerk. Ralph Cone, esq., the representative in the Legislature from Manchester, stated the fact of the reception of petitions for commutation. Mr. C. Parker moved that Mr. Cone be appointed an agent of the town in the matter, with power to employ counsel and send for witnesses.

It was voted to empower Mr. Cone to act for the town, his action to be such as the selectmen shall approve.

LARGE CONFLAGRATION

Total Destruction of the Hudson River Railroad Freight Depot.

Twenty Cars Burned and a Large Amount of Freight.

LOSS, $50,000.

About midnight we were informed through Sergt. Robinson of the Twenty-sixth Precinct, of a large fire burning in the vicinity of Thirty-second-st. and North River.

We immediately dispatched a reporter by special conveyance to that locality, when it was discovered that the Hudson River Railroad depot and a large number of cars were in flames.

The fire was discovered shortly before 12 o'clock in the freight-depot, where between 2,000 and 3,000 bales of hay were stored.

The fire burned rapidly and spread to a large number of freight cars in close vicinity to the depot, all of which were loaded with corn, potatoes, and other produce just brought from Albany.

The depot, with the hay, was completely destroyed, as was also about 20 cars with all the contents.

The total loss was estimated at about $50,000 on which there was no insurance or none which could be ascertained. Chief-Engineer Kingland, Fire Commissioner Pinckney, Sergeant James of the Twentieth Precinct Police arrived early on the ground, and rendered all the assistance with the forces under their command toward staying the flames