THE DRAMA.

OLYMPIC THEATER.

BE CRICKET ON THE HEARTH.

It is delightful to have a subject to write about, in reference to which one has no occasion to be over-cautious and critical. Mr. Jefferson's personation of *Caleb Plummer* is such a subject. It was witnessed, last evening, at the Olympic Theater, for the first time this season; and it was worthy of Mr. Jefferson's genius. The poor, sweet, gentle, noble, old man of Dickens's story lives again in him, and touches every heart by his pathos and pure self-sacrifice. Everybody knows the character of *Caleb Plummer*, and, no one needs to be told that perfect humanity—humanity at its best and highest development—is its very essence. Mr. Jefferson's tender sensibility of nature makes him peculiarly sympathetic with the character, while his admirable art enables him to embody it with thorough exactness of detail. There is no evidence of elaboration in his acting. Your attention is not drawn to any especial peculiarity. You see good old *Caleb* before you, and your whole heart goes out to him in sympathy. It does one good to see such acting, in such a play; for, while Mr. Jefferson's *Caleb* is profoundly touching, the story of the drama in which he appears is beautiful in its purity, simplicity and humanizing sentiment. Mr. Dickens's genius has seldom wrought a gem like "The Cricket on the Hearth." We have seen the play produced with somewhat fitter accessories than were furnished last evening, for the second act; but, in general, the setting was good. The acting, too, in the subsidiary parts, was, in the main, satisfactory. Mr. Stoedart's *Tackleton* is well known for its singular fidelity to the original, and need not, therefore, be again described. Mr. Vandenhoff made a pleasant impression as *John Peerybingle*, as also did Miss Carson, as *Dot*. Miss Harris, as *Mrs. Fielding*, the sad remembrancer of "the indigo trade," seemed to have stepped out of the pages of Dickens. The *Tilly* was Mrs. Saunders, who, with delightful whimsicality and naturalness, is yet inclined to exaggeration. Mrs. Blanche Gray, as *Bertha*, evinced a quick sympathy with the part, and filled it with taste and earnestness. *May Fielding* was personated by Miss Telbin; the *Cricket* by Miss Alice Harrison, and *Edward Plummer* by Mr. W. Barron. With this cast the piece passes off smoothly, and may be heartily enjoyed. We do not recall an occasion more truly delightful than that of last evening's representation of "The Cricket on the Hearth" at the Olympic Theater.

BARNUM'S MUSEUM.

In dramas which are devised with a direct view to the inculcation of moral lessons, we have little confidence and no interest. A moral is a good thing in its way, but when popped up at every turn, like an imp in a pantomime, it becomes neither more nor less than a downright bore. That is why the serious drama has long shared with the Scriptural grass-hopper the unpleasant distinction of being a burden. Lord Byron said, with equal sense and wit, that a man talking about his honor is as nauseous as a woman talking about her virtue—both being equally empty and ridiculous. Honor and virtue are not accustomed to vaunt themselves. They are content to be and to act, and to make no pother over their own worth; and what is true of these exalted attributes in individuals is true in letters as well. Good plays—plays that really exalt the emotional moods and elevate the thoughts of spectators—are not those which make a strenuous show of goodness, and certainly blow the trumpet of Pharisaical self-esteem. There are, on the contrary, plays which present true dramatic pictures of character and circumstance, which "hold as 'twere the mirror up to" human nature and human society, and leave the observer to deduce his own lessons of right, and honor, and dignity, and ideal excellence. With these views, we feel a natural impatience of the moral drama, and entertain a pretty strongly rooted conviction that it is a dreary old humbug. The select moralists of Barnum's Museum, however, entertain different ideas, and conceive that what is called "the greatest capacity" must not be overlooked by the moral philosopher and benefactor of his species. Hence they constantly present the serious, didactic drama. Hence, at this moment, they have offered to Mr. Barnum's peculiar public a piece called "Ten Nights in a Bar-room." It is an old piece, we believe, and is based upon a story by one of the prosiest, dullest and most utterly commonplace writers that ever added to the natural ills of humanity, namely, Mr. T. S. Arthur. They play it at Barnum's in four acts. We were utterly unable to endure more than three of them. These three introduced the following stock-fixtures, commonly used in illustrating the Sunday-School truth: A heavily-respectable philanthropist, with appearance, manners and conversation calculated to make any person of lively sensibility forswear virtue for life, and rush madly to the intoxicating bowl. A drunken father, with unshorn face, very bad hat, and very much torn trowsers—which, by the way, remain in precisely the same dilapidated condition for upward of a year. An impossible stage-Yankee, wearing such clothes as are never seen except upon the stage. A landlord, who sells rum and stifles the stings of conscience. A fast young man, and a city sharper. The drunkard's wife, who wears uncommonly good clothes and gold ear-rings, talks in the most pious and edifying strain, and never mends her husband's trowsers. A precocious female child, who is blessed with a celestial spirit like Mrs. Stowe's "Little Eva, for instance), and who strongly suggests the "Phenomenon" of "Nicholas Nickleby." A few other persons are introduced, but the human mind cannot bear everything—and we fail to remember them. As to the incidents—a good deal of drinking is done; several fights take place; the Phenomenon is hit on the head by a tumbler, hurled by the landlord; the drunken father has an attack of *delirium tremens*; the fast young man is quietly stabbed by the city sharper; the impossible Yankee gets exceedingly drunk, and introduces the humorous touches, after the manner of Mr. Clarke's *Toodles*; and the Phenomenon, wearing a blood-stained bandage on her head, delivers a long and solemn discourse to her parents, on life, death, immortality and the necessity of abstaining from strong drink, and finally passes away with an elaborate pulmonic quotation. There is more, of course; for a printed synopsis of the drama, in the play-bill, instructs us that another man is murdered in the next act, and that the drunken father becomes a respectable and therefore a happy man, while intemperance conducts several less favored individuals to the gallows. The dialogue of the play resembles one of the Sunday School newspapers. There may be persons who can derive benefit from this remarkable work; and, if so, Mr. Barnum's players have not lived in vain. The moral we deduce is that intemperance must indeed be a dreadful thing when such a play can be written about it. The lesson, it may be noted, is conveyed at the Museum with the customary embellishment. Moral adiments are revealed upon one side of Mr. Barnum's drop-curtain and physical distempers upon the other. We sometimes find it difficult to determine whether we are in a Sunday School or a dissecting hospital.

STADT THEATRE.

Mr. Dawison played "Richard the Third" on Tuesday night, before an immense audience. He has made a profound impression in this character—our general views in reference to which were expressed on Monday. To-night Mr. Dawison will appear in several characters, in two German plays. He will likewise appear on Saturday evening next. We learn that it is probable that Mr. Dawison will appear at an American theater, in the course of the season.

MR. HARTZ, THE ILLUSIONIST.

Dodworth's Hall proves to be much better adapted than Irving Hall for the entertainment given by Mr. Hartz, the Illusionist. It is a small and comfortable hall, very cosy and pleasant to the audience, and Mr. Hartz's magical influence makes it, at the moment, a center of attraction to multitudes of spectators. His entertainment, which consists of a series of clever, pleasing, and quite bewildering tricks, is, in some respects, the best of its kind that has ever been offered in this city. We say this on careful reflection, and with no disposition to puffery. Mr. Hartz dispenses with all complicated paraphernalia. The accessories of his feats are of the simplest possible description. He is the most intellectual magician that we call to mind. His manner, too, is gentle and winning, and he performs his tricks with the grace and ease of a gentleman. This is no slight merit in a performance of this description. Mr. Hartz's tricks are many, and we cannot of course undertake to describe them all. That of the intelligent bell is very striking—for the bell discourses with an intelligence positively human. Very clever, too, are the card-tricks. There is much humor as well as ability, also, in Mr. Hartz's management of the productive hat—which he borrows from a member of his audience, and from which he extracts, in succession, about fifty tin cans, five Chinese lanterns, about fifty packs of cards, and a hoop-skirt. But the most wonderful of his achievements are those of the Flower-Pots, the Living Head, and the Basket. These baffle conjecture as to their method of operation. The spectator sees three flower-pots filled with teeth. These are covered for a moment with each a small hollow tube, and are then seen to contain full-grown shrubs. A human head—or what seems to be one—is revealed, in a box. It nods and smiles and speaks, and does all that a human head could be expected to do. A young lady is placed in a basket, which is drilled through with a sword; and presently the basket is seen to be empty, and the young lady appears at the further end of the hall. This latter is an Indian trick. Mr. Hartz does everything smoothly and well; and his performances ought not to be overlooked by those who are in pursuit of the novel and the wonderful.

BROADWAY THEATER.

Miss Maggie Mitchell is playing "Fanchon," before very large audiences, at this theater. The topic suggests no new remark, and we are therefore content merely to record the fact. There will be a matinée on Saturday. Miss Mitchell's engagement will last two weeks longer, when she will give place to Mr. Charles Dillon.

BUDWORTH'S MINSTRELS.

The first matinée of the season will be given here on Saturday. A various and agreeable entertainment is promised. The Fifth Avenue Opera House is a pleasant place of resort, and the performances given there are of their kind, genuine and in good taste.

KELLY AND LEON'S MINSTRELS.

A burlesque, entitled "Mrs. My-De-ah-Res-tor-her" has been acted here with much success. The "Doctor of All-Can-Tour-Her" is still nightly performed, together with various less elaborate pieces of Ethiopian Minstrelsy.

MR. AND MRS. HOWARD PAUL.

Two weeks more will bring to a close the brief season of Mr. and Mrs. Paul's Parlor Entertainments, at Irving Hall. The opportunities thus remain of seeing them ought, therefore, to be improved. Their programme of exercises is most agreeably varied, and contains several features of marked excellence. Mr. Paul's History of Cuisar is one of the most faithful things we have witnessed. Mrs. Paul sings among other songs "La Marseillaise" and "Come Into the Garden, Maud." The entire programme is most agreeable.

RISTORI.

Madame Ristori will make her first appearance as *Lady Macbeth*, on Friday evening, at the French Theater. This should call together the largest house of the season. The reader is reminded that Madame Ristori will play *Queen Elizabeth* at the Matinée on Saturday next. Next week her engagement will terminate. Few opportunities remain for those who would see the greatest actress of the time. Let these be improved. On Thursday next, by the way, Madame Ristori will play *Lady Macbeth* at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

WINTER GARDEN.

The houses here continue to be very large. Mrs. Bowers has made a deep impression as *Lady Audley*. An error of the type yesterday caused us to describe Mr. Daniels's personation of *Luke Marks* as "eccentric" instead of excellent.

Florence Percy, author of "Rock Me to Sleep," was, by an error of the types yesterday, said to be Mrs. Akers, of Richmond. The lady was the widow of Paul Akers, but has, we are informed, married again, and is now Mrs. Allen.

MUSICAL.

FRENCH OPERA—THEATRE FRANCAISE.

The production of Les Diamant de la Couronne at the Theatre Francaise was a decided success. This opera contains some of Auber's most charming inspirations. The music is light, sparkling and vivacious; the melodies fresh and spontaneous—a brilliant superstructure raised upon reminiscences of the quaint forms and sentiment of the old troubadour music, the spirit of which may be traced in the Madrigals which are yet retained in our vocal repertoire. With all the seeming frivolity of this music, a vein of tender and exquisite sentiment may be traced underlying the whole. The songs are full of character, and are varied from the simple chanson to the brilliantly ornate aria; the concerted music, without any pretension to largeness, is skillfully treated, so that the *ensemble* pieces are striking and effective through their rhythmic construction. The music of the second act is the most charming in the opera. The instrumentation is richly varied by subjects of singular grace and beauty, the color being laid in by a master hand. As a whole the music is eminently attractive, rich in beauties of a brilliant character, and as fresh and as welcome as when it was 40 years younger.

The vocal artists are all excellent without being great. All the voices are small voices, but what there is of them is thoroughly agreeable. They are all well-educated singers, and what they do is always in the best taste. Mlle. Nuddie has a voice of large compass and rare flexibility; her execution, though sometimes faulty in the wide intervals, is generally brilliant and accurate, her manner is delightfully piquant, and as an actress she is entirely charming. The same may be said of Mlle. Laurentis, who sings with grace and expression, and whose execution is at once neat and brilliant. The duett singing of these ladies is marked by a rare union of purpose and is charming from its precision. M. Antheine is a thoroughly well-educated artist and sings with unexceptionable taste, save that he uses his falsetto somewhat too freely, and with rare delicacy and expression. The charm of these performances is that all the actors appear as human beings. They are totally free from stiffness, they have the easy grace and manners of society, and they speak and act with natural fluency which gives a pleasant air of reality to the performance.

Though we cannot but desire the orchestra larger in numbers, we must express ourselves content with the accuracy and the delicacy of its performance. Mr. Prodigan has got it well under his control; and produces all the possible effects from the numbers at his command. The overture was played with great spirit and delicacy, and the whole score was rendered with due attention to delicacy and breadth of coloring.

The costumes are rich and beautiful, the appointments in good taste and abundant, and all that relates to the stage department denotes the skill and attention of a competent stage manager. There are no discrepancies or rude contrasts to offend the eye, for the proprieties are carefully studied and rigidly enforced.

The immense repertoire at the command of the French Opera Troupe enables the management to offer constant variety in performance. This evening, for instance, three musical pieces will be performed, namely: La Terrealor, by Adolph Adam, Le Maitre de Chapelle, by Paer, and Le Cadi, by Ambroise Thomas. Thus, in the course of the season, the public will become acquainted with a large number of delightful musical works, which cannot be presented at any other establishment. The public is beginning to take an interest in the French Opera, and we are satisfied that the interest will increase rapidly, for all who visit it depart with a pleasant remembrance of an equal and charming performance.

NEW-YORK PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.

The first public rehearsal of the New-York Philharmonic Society will take place next Saturday afternoon at Irving Hall, commencing at 3 o'clock p. m. Mr. Carl Bergmann will conduct the orchestra.

THEODORE THOMAS'S SYMPHONY SOIREES.

The third season of these excellent and popular concerts will commence on Saturday evening next, Oct. 20, at Irving Hall. The selections will, as heretofore, comprise the highest class of music of every school, including the works of living writers of eminence or promise. The orchestra will be larger in numbers than last season, and the soloists will comprise all the novel and the good that can be obtained. We need hardly commend these soirees to the attention of our readers.

Mme. Camille Urso is now in this city, where she will remain for two or three months. Her extraordinary popularity here is well known to our readers, who will be glad to learn that in France and Germany her great artistic talents are fully recognized and warmly appreciated. She will return to Paris in the Spring to fulfill an engagement lasting during the term of the great exhibition at the new Music Hall. She has had many engagements offered her here, and will probably appear at the Philharmonic Society. She performs at Hartford in a few days with the accomplished Mme. Varaid Homann.

Signor Severini, just arrived from Italy, will give a concert on Saturday evening, Oct. 27, at Irving Hall, assisted by several prominent artists. Signor Severini brings with him an excellent reputation. He is a *tenore di grazia*, and his voice is said to be exceedingly pure and beautiful. His style is spoken of as in the best Italian school, combining grace and expression, with an executive power competent to perform the most florid and difficult music. We hope that a large audience will witness the debut of Signor Severini.

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT.

TRIALS BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS—COMPLAINTS OF CITIZENS AGAINST OFFICERS.

[Before President ACTON and Commissioners BERGEN and MANNIERE.]

Though there were not many cases before the Board of Commissioners assembled in Trial Chamber yesterday, there were one or two worthy, from their peculiar developments, of a more full report than generally is vouchsafed. In the morning the trials which are, as often heretofore stated, of little or no importance to citizens, save only such as may be in training for the blue-coat and brass-button-flat-cap and silver-shield-white-stripe-on-blue pantaloons-and-big-club-by-side-with-seven-shooter-revolver-in-body-belt-business; or, in other words, who are hoping for appointments on the Police. The Station House officers, the captains, sergeants, roundsmen and doormen are required by the rules of Trial Chamber to present their charges against their patrolmen, so that they may be tried during the morning session of the Commissioners. As these charges are for the most part for mere technical breaches of discipline, such as violations of Station House by-laws, or neglecting or refusing to do certain duties regularly set down in the printed laws, they generally are of very little interest to the public. It is only when the advent of the afternoon session brings on a different class of cases that the general public become interested. The complainants then are citizens like themselves, and have the same cause of complaint against the officers whose duty and business it is to protect their interests.

A RICH CASE.—There are certain cases wherein the witnesses continue to enbroil each other, and to show up their own little weaknesses of temper rather than by their testimony to criminate the officer or officers against whom the complaint is originally preferred. When once before the Court, they seem to forget entirely the subject for which they ostensibly have appeared; and, being brought face to face, they prefer to let loose on each other a tremendous torrent of that elegant foreign language usually characterized as "Billingsgate" to setting forth their case before the Court.

This was the state of facts revealed when Mrs. Jarvis, a woman dressed in the deepest of all fashionable mourning, appeared to testify against Policeman Alvin A. Poole.

The substance of it all is, that there was a quarrel between certain women who took more pains to advertise their probable business calling when they came into Court than they ever dared in any other way.

The difficulty seemed to be that the officer lived in the same house with two women, who were in the habit of quarreling—their names being Mrs. Van Nest and Mrs. Jarvis. In one of their periodical rows, the officer was desired to interfere; but, not having seen any assault committed, he, well knowing the character of his neighbors, very properly declined.

When confronted with each other in Court, the conversation between the two bodies resolved itself into mutual charges and recriminations, of which the subjoined dialogue may give a slight idea.

Mrs. Jarvis (a woman as long as a railroad, dressed in the deepest of all deep mourning, who spoke with a peculiar preaching cadence in her tones, as if she were an exhorter out of employment, who pointed at her adversary and otherwise gesticulated as if she were thoroughly versed in pulpit gymnastics)—"Do you, oh woman! dare to deny that I kept you from starving for many days? Do you deny that I fed you when you was hungry—that I gave you drink when you thirsted—that I clothed you when you was——"

Mrs. Van Nest (with infinite scorn)—"You! you!! you!!! give me anything to eat? Why, you often told me yourself that you was too stingy ever to eat a full meal. You!!!! ever keep me from starving! Why, you have not treated yourself to a meal of victuals for a year that my cat wouldn't turn up her nose at! You!!——"

And so the scene went on, the two women exchanging words which grew each instant more savage; and, pointing with threatening fingers, which each instant came closer to flinching eyes, until, at last, officers had quietly and without any show of ostentation to interfere, lest an assault should be committed, then and there, in the very presence of the august court. It was shown conclusively that the policeman had done his duty in this matter, and he was discharged with the admonition from President Acton to change his place of living or lodging and get out of a house which harbored such quarrelsome inmates. The officer bowed his thanks and said, "I quite agree with you, Mr. President," and left, to make, probably, the requisite arrangements. That officer is all right.

AN OFFICIAL SUICIDE.—Probably no officer of the Metropolitan Police force ever committed a more speedy and effectual official suicide than did Mr. Robert O'Keefe, who was charged, by Mr. Charles B. Searle with neglect of duty.

The story, which was corroborated to the last fact by an ample sufficiency of witnesses, was given thus:

Mr. Charles B. Searle is conductor of Second-ave. car. No. 19. Last Saturday there was a row on car No. 16 of the same line which was ahead of him, on the corner of Division-st. and the Bowery—Conductor Searle left his own car, a blockade having been established, and ran forward and went into car No. 16. Here he found that four persons had refused to pay the extra one cent fare, they tendering five cents, and insisting that they had paid the proper fare. The conductor of car No. 16 attempted to put out the refractory passengers—an officer was in the car. The conductor of No. 19 tried to assist the conductor of No. 16, when he was seized, held, and pounded by a number of persons in the presence and sight of the officer. A man "butted" him in the nose, when he called on Officer O'Keefe to arrest the man who had struck him; the officer then seized him by the neck and said: "What are you fighting here for?" He told the officer to arrest the man who struck him when he replied: "I can't make the arrest, because I don't belong to this Precinct."

The fact that O'Keefe had made use of the last statement settled his fate. An officer should know that wherever he may be, he is bound to keep the peace, and not to let a criminal go free as in this instance.

President Acton said to O'Keefe: "I don't think the Police business will suit you."

The officer tried to equivocate.

It was of not the slightest use. The one fact having been proven that the man struck days, he was informed that he had better seek some more congenial business, as it was evident that Police duties would never suit him.

It is seldom that an officer on trial received on the instant his sentence, but the incompetence of O'Keefe was so evident that there was no use in concealing his fate from him for an instant.

A QUINTE-ESSENTIAL SIMPLICITY.—Police officers are often called upon to do the most extraordinary things, and are blamed at every decline or fall. But a more curious case of its kind—a complainant who pushed a stupid charge further—never came within the notice of a reporter than the case presented yesterday of Bernard Curran, who brought up Bernard Conway for not "reprimanding" a crowd of boys. It seems that Curran was carrying in his arms a black-and-tan terrier, and some boys made some fun of him, whereupon he called upon the officer to "reprimand" the boys. The officer said that if there was any substantial charge against the boys he would take them into custody. Curran said the complaint amounted just to that, and officer "reprimanded" the young sinners. Of course the officer discharged.

It will scarcely be believed, though it is nevertheless true, that this complainant brought a charge against this officer for refusing to "reprimand" these boys. Of course the case was laughed out of Court.

A SPRIG OF PUDDING.—Mr. Christopher Callahan, of No. 302 Grand-st., brought a complaint against Officer Thomas O'Shea, of the Fourth Precinct, for, while in citizens' dress having indulged in a most curious, in fact, unique spree. The testimony of the witnesses of both sides differs so little that they might either have been subpœnaed for the other side of the house and never known the difference. In fact, all the people who saw the occurrence agreed in their statement of the facts.

Officer O'Shea, who came in citizen's dress, went to a wagon which doubtless belonged to a butcher, or a sausage maker. At any rate, the officer succeeded in abstracting from the wagon a handful of those peculiar textures which are, when properly dressed and cleaned, filled with highly seasoned meats, and then put into market under the welcome and well-known form of sausages. It so chanced that the goods which Officer O'Shea seized in his hand were empty coverings for sausages, or, as the Germans call them, "puddings"—to put it plainly, they were a bunch of blown-up skins, filled with no more substantial material than air.

The officer, having possessed himself of a string of these "puddings," proceeded to indulge in the customary freaks of His Majesty, Mr. "Punch," and to hit over the head and shoulders every person he chanced to meet.

The officer, not contented with his fun of hitting indiscriminately all persons who came along, took it into his sapient heart to take into custody Mr. Christopher Callahan, after having called him a "rabid," an "old offender," &c.

In short, the testimony went to show before the Commissioners that Policeman O'Shea, while off duty, or at least out of uniform one single day, went on a great spree. Policeman O'Shea will doubtless find that he will have very severe atonement to make.

OTHER CASES.—A number of other cases of minor importance, which we have no space to elaborate, were satisfactorily disposed of.

ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC RAILROAD.

The following is a speech delivered by Gen. Fremont, Oct. 1, at St. Louis, at a meeting to raise subscriptions to the capital stock of the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad, and is interesting not only in regard to the proposed road, but as a description of the country through which it will pass:

By a recent act of Congress, the line of the road is laid in South-Western Missouri and the Valley of the Canadian, and generally along the thirty-fifth parallel to the head of navigation on the Colorado, and thence to the Pacific coast. To aid in its construction, the act grants over 25,000 acres of land to the mile, making for the entire route about 46,000,000 of acres. Its really central position makes the line national. We believe that it will prove to be the shortest, and it certainly presents fewer natural obstacles, and is the most practicable of any among all the proposed routes to the Pacific. From Springfield to San Francisco its estimated length is 1,800 miles, making for the distance from St. Louis about 2,000, and from New-York about 3,000 miles to San Francisco. From New-York, by way of Memphis, to San Francisco, the distance is 3,500, making a difference of 500 miles in favor of this route.

It is singularly direct and easy of construction, lying for the most part in the valleys of streams. It is not obstructed by mountain chains, other than the low ranges bordering the valley of the Rio del Norte. Some 400 miles west of St. Louis, it crosses the Arkansas waters where they are still navigable, giving again an opening to the Mississippi River. It passes through the heart of New-Mexico at Albuquerque, securing to itself a valuable way traffic, and it affords the site for an important city at the head of navigation on the Colorado River, where the Great Basin is opened to the Gulf coast and the ocean. It enters California without crossing mountains and without going over snow at any season, passing around what was called in the familiar language of trapper days the *Point of the Mountain*, skirting and avoiding the Sierra Nevada, that great storehouse of California, teeming with its abundant supplies of metallic wealth, living streams and noble forests, but formidable in its engineering difficulties. There are certainly most striking advantages in the location of this road, not only as respects the trade which is to support it, but as respects the facilities which they afford in building it. It is proposed to add others equally important by a branch road from Albuquerque to Guaymas.

Throughout the greatest part of its length and conspicuously in its division, it offers rich soil and good climate, wood and water. For hundreds of miles together the agricultural beauty of its lands is fully equal to any in the entire West, soil and climate together giving a broad range for cultivation, from wheat and barley, corn and cotton, to sugar and coffee, wine and opium. Southward it opens out into immense pastures, where the climate is very favorable to animal life, and especially to the raising of large flocks of sheep. Enterprising men are already securing large bodies of land for this purpose in New-Mexico and Arizona, and the transportation of herds and flocks to the Eastern markets will be an important part in the business of the road.

In the regions traversed by it the Summers are temperate, long and dry, the Winters short and mild. In the eastern divisions there are no high mountains or naked plains to disturb the equable and agreeable temperature belonging to the latitude. There are no swamps or overflowed lands, and the census report of 1860 shows this region to be one of the most healthy in the United States.

Very many of the most useful metals and minerals are found dispersed over the different sections, occurring sometimes in extraordinary force. The masses of iron and rich lead mines are familiarly known.

Beds of coal occur in different places; salt in its various conditions is found in great abundance; ores of gold and silver, indicating great richness, and some of which have already given great yield, are found in the middle and western sections, with black lead and quicksilver, and massive beds of copper, equal in richness to any known on the continent, occur directly on the line of the road. From the neighboring mines of the Gila, years ago, copper was transported in wagons to the city of Chihuahua, the gold or silver it contained paying all the expenses of transportation. This undeveloped wealth, the healthfulness of the climate and the great agricultural value of the lands enable us conscientiously to invite emigrants to occupy them, and we have abundant reason to believe that they will be speedily settled and that we will pour a continuous stream of emigration over the line. We have a most satisfactory earnest of this in the arrival of the first installment of Scandinavian emigrants to the lands of the South-West Pacific, which is of course only a part of the great road. And it is well here to say that the policy of the road will be to give all possible protection to the emigrants on their arrival, to see that they are properly cared for, that they are placed on good lands in good situations, and that the influence of the road will be exerted for their benefit wherever it can aid their interests.

California to-day seems to be at a pause in its population, and consequently perhaps in its prosperity. The great distance of the voyage and the time required to make it act unfavorably. But with the building of this road a new impulse will be given and a new era begun. The American shore of the Pacific and the neighboring shore of Mexico will soon be crowded with population. The opposite Atlantic shore is the great reservoir of a trade and wealth which has fertilized and enriched wherever it has flowed. It is teeming with ideas and processes in the arts and manufactures which are in great part totally unknown to us, in the enjoyment of that trade, developed to the utmost by our enterprise and great maritime resources, in the interchange of new ideas and in the blending together of two civilizations—the newest and the oldest—we may expect our Western States to reach an unexampled degree of prosperity.

The people of the Asiatic shore had the problem of fitting crowded population to insufficient soil. Ours has been the reverse. In the unrestricted intercourse of course we shall give great advantages by applying our immense unused resources the finish of detail and the perfection of economy which they have been compelled to practice. In return we shall return great benefits on them, and we shall undoubtedly do a grand missionary work by carrying among them the advanced ideas of our social and political conditions.

These, gentlemen, are some of the advantages which we are able to offer to men who are disposed to make new fortunes or establish new homes upon our road, and these are some of the benefits which we hope to secure to the country, and in so doing to justify the liberality of Congress to us.

THE BANK-TAX CASES.

DECISION BY THE COURT OF APPEALS.

The following is the form of the orders entered in the cases brought by the banks of this city to test their liability to pay the tax imposed on them by the Act of last April. It will be seen by the form of the decree that every point taken by them is overruled:

The People of the State of New-York on the relation of ——, Appellants, agt. The Commissioners of Taxes and Assessments for the City and County of New-York, Respondents.

The appeal in this cause having been argued by ——— of counsel for the relator, appellant, and by ——— and ——— of counsel for the defendants, respondents, and due deliberation being had thereon, it is ordered, that the judgment of the Supreme Court appealed from, be, and the same is hereby in all things affirmed with costs to the defendants respondents.

And the relator having claimed exemption from the taxation mentioned in the record in this cause, under and by virtue of the eighth section of article one of the Constitution of the United States, and also under and by virtue of the second section of the act of Congress, entitled "An act to authorize the issue of United States notes and for the redemption or funding thereof, and for funding the floating debt of the United States," approved February 25, 1862, and also under and by virtue of an act of Congress, entitled "An act supplementary to an act entitled an Act to provide ways and means for the support of the Government," approved March 3, 1863; and also by virtue of the provisions of an act of Congress, entitled "An Act to provide a national currency, secured by a pledge of the United States stocks, and to provide for the circulation and redemption thereof," approved February 25, 1863; and also by virtue of the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "An Act to provide a national currency secured by a pledge of United States bonds, and to provide for the circulation and redemption thereof," approved June 3, 1864, and the several acts of Congress additional to and amendatory thereof, on the ground that the capital stock of said bank in that respect mentioned in said record, is invested in the public debt of the United States; also on the ground that said tax is prohibited by said section eight, article one of the Constitution of the United States; also on the ground that the said tax is prohibited by the provisions of the several acts of Congress before mentioned; also on the ground that said tax is prohibited by the Constitution and laws of the United States; and also on the ground that said tax is at a greater rate than is assessed upon other moneyed capital in the hands of individual citizens of the State of New-York; and on the ground that the assessment in the record complained of was not made in conformity with the Laws of the State of New-York, nor with the acts of Congress before mentioned. And the validity of the authority claimed by said respondents under the provisions of an act of the Legislature of the State of New-York, entitled "An Act authorizing the taxation of stock holders of Banks and the surplus funds of Savings Banks," passed April 23, 1866, to impose the tax mentioned in said record, being drawn in question, it is certified that the judgment of this Court is against the said relator, the appellant, and is against the exception, right, privilege, or exemption claimed by him under and by virtue of said provisions of the Constitution of the United States and the several acts of Congress before referred to, and in favor of the validity of such a state of New-York State, and the construction of the eighth section of article one of the Constitution of the United States and the several acts of Congress before mentioned being drawn in question; it is further certified that the judgment of this court is against the right, privilege, exception, or exemption specially claimed by said relator, ——the appellant, under said section of the Constitution of the United States and the several acts of Congress before mentioned.

KANSAS STATE CAPITOL BUILDING.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

TOPEKA, Kansas, Oct. 17.—The corner-stone of the capitol building of the State of Kansas was laid in this city to-day by the Masonic order.

THE PLAINS.

MOVEMENTS OF GEN. SHERMAN—INDIAN DECLARATION OF WAR.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

TOPEKA, Kansas, Oct. 17.—Lieut.-Gen. Sherman passed here to-day en route for St. Louis, on his return from Ellsworth and Fort Morgan. The Indians have declared war and are near to Fort Garfield, New-Mexico, in strong force.

THE TURF.

THE HOBOKEN RACES.

SPLENDID SPORT—RICHMOND TWICE VICTORIOUS—ALDEBARAN'S SPLENDID TIME.

It would scarcely be possible to choose a finer day than yesterday, or one better suited for the purpose of racing. The temperature was that happy medium which is so animating and reviving to both man and beast, while a gentle breeze, just sufficient to be perceptible, fanned the cheek with delicious softness. The country, which stretches in a wide uninterrupted view from the front of the grand stand, looked unusually beautiful and radiant, the distant hills smiling with their luxuriant foliage, and their numerous cottages and homesteads speaking of comfort, peace and plenty.

The attendance was not so large as was expected; nevertheless, it had the advantage of being select. As usual, a large proportion were ladies, whose pretty faces, gay and handsome dresses, were an addition to the *tout ensemble* of the scene. However, to-day a crush may be expected, the steeple chase on all occasions calling out the crowd. Seven horses are entered as competitors for this event—a larger number than have at one time started at any of the neighboring race meetings.

The betting was very lively, and the public found the performances of the favorites to justify their good opinions.

FIRST RACE.—Selling premium of $250, all ages, dash of 1¼ miles, on usual conditions. Horses entered for $1,500 to carry full weight; those entered for $1,400, allowed 7 lb; those entered for $800, allowed 14 lb, and those entered for $500, allowed 20 lb.

Dr. R. Ogle, g. h. Richmond, by Two Bitts, dam Faith, by Childe Harold, 4 years.....1

Mr. E. V. Snedeker, b. m. Lady Dan Bryant, by Lexington, dam Fanny O, by imp. Margrave, 4 years, $800. White and Black.....2

Col. D. McDaniel, ch. m. by Knight of St. George, dam Lena. $500. Red and Blue and Red Sash.....3

Mr. D. Keady, ch. c. Tom Woolfolk, by Lexington out of Florida by Wagner, 3 years, $800. Pink and Blue.....4

BETTING.—2 to 3 for Richmond, 2 to 1 against Lady Dan, 6 to 1 against field.

Lady Dan, at the tap of the drum, took the lead, Knighthood stood second, Richmond third, and Tom Woolfolk fourth. Before arriving at the quarter Richmond had dropped into second place. From this he gradually pushed his advantage, till he collared Lady Dan, which he did on the upper turn, and took front place at the three-quarter pole, finishing the race, a winner with ease. Time, 2:17.

SECOND RACE.—Premium of $200, all ages, dash of one mile.

Dr. R. Ogle, g. h. Richmond, by Two Bitts, dam Faith by Childe Harold, 4 years.....1

Dr. J. W. Weldon, b. c. Knighthood, by imp. Knight of St. George, dam Glycera by Sovereign, 4 years. Red and Maroon.....2

Mr. John Hunter, b. m. Ulrica, by Lexington, dam Cornelia, 3 years. Orange and Orange and Red Sash.....3

Mr. E. V. Snedeker, b. m. Lady Dan Bryant, by Lexington, dam Fanny O, by imp. Margrave, 4 years. White and Black.....4

Col. D. McDaniel, blk. f. by Eclipse, out of Greek Slave by Glencoe 5

Richmond at 2 to 1 against field, 4 to 1 against Knighthood, 6 to 1 against Ulrica.

At the start Knighthood went off with lead, but ere they passed the grand stand Ulrica had collared him. At the quarter mile Ulrica took the front, Richmond third, and Knighthood between them both. From here to the three-quarter post places were unchanged, when both Richmond and Knighthood challenged here, each succeeding in obtaining the first and second place, the former of which was awarded to the gray. Time, 1:46.

THIRD RACE.—The Ferry Premium of $400, all ages; 2 mile heats.

Mr. J. S. Watson, ch. g. Aldebaran, by Commodore out of Nannie Lewis by imp. Glencoe, 6 years. Orange and Orange.. 1 1

Dr. J. W. Weldon, b. c. Knighthood, by imp. Knight of St. George, dam Glycera by Sovereign, 4 years. Red and Maroon..... 2 3

Col. D. McDaniel, b. c. Luther, by Lexington, dam Belle Lewis by Glencoe, 4 years. Red and Blue and Red Sash..... 3 2

Aldebaran, 10 to 1 against field.

First Heat.—At the start, Aldebaran took the front, Knighthood second, and Luther third. At the half mile pole, Luther and Knighthood were neck and neck, Aldebaran still in front. From this point Aldebaran went to the front, and with ease won the heat, Knighthood second, and Luther third. Time: 3:50. No betting.

Second Heat.—Aldebaran at the start again took the lead, Luther second, and Knighthood third; from start to end of race their places were never changed, still the heat was made in the excellent time of 3:41.

One thing resulted from this race, that Richmond and Aldebaran, from the excessively quick time they made, cannot but be considered first-class race horses; their excellent performances eliciting a perfect storm of applause from the entire crowd.

To-day a three mile steeple chase, will take place. All who are admirers of this manly sport are advised to go early to the scene of the sports.

TROTTING FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FAMILY OF THE LATE ROBERT WALKER.

A series of trotting-matches are announced to take place at the East Orange (N. J.) Trotting-Course next week, one-third of the receipts from which are to be given to the family of the late Robert Walker, whose recent murder on Long Island left them in a dependent condition.

BASE BALL.

MATCHES TO BE PLAYED.

OCT. 18—Oriental of Greenpoint vs. Van Dyke—Second Nines. On ground of Oriental.

OCT. 23—Oriental vs. Union of Morrisania. On ground of Oriental.

OCT. 24—Oriental vs. Eckford. On Union ground.

CITY NEWS.

PASSENGERS ON THE EVENING STAR.—By some accident the names of D. Pretto and wife of New-Orleans were omitted from yesterday's list of cabin passengers lost on the steamer Evening Star.

[Announcements.]

MRS. SEGUIN.

MRS. SEGUIN, who has used LEVETT'S AROMATIC SWEETENIA says: "Permit me to indorse the very excellent qualities of Sweetenia as a dentifrice. I have never found anything better or more agreeable." SWEETENIA is prepared by Dr. LEVETT, a dentist of over thirty years practice in New-York, and is indorsed by the most scientific men in the profession as being the best dentifrice known. Warranted not to injure the enamel. For sale everywhere.

HURRAH, BOYS! HURRAH!! HURRAH, GIRLS! HURRAH!—YOUNG AMERICA is now ready!! The most beautiful, entertaining, and most instructive Magazine for Young Americans, abounding in good things and things that children will understand. Published by W. JENNINGS DEMOREST, No. 473 Broadway, and sold everywhere at 15 cents with a beautiful Presentation Plate.

SEVEN YEARS' EXPERIENCE without a failure proves that the BURGLAR ALARM TELEGRAPH will protect your house from robbers; invisibly connected without damage. E. HOLMES, No. 258 Broadway.

PYLE'S O. K. SOAP—Good for the Laundry, Bath or Toilet. Is the most economical soap in use.