Amusements.

BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM.
DAY AND EVENING—VISION OF THE DEAD, Mr. C. W. Clarke and a full company. TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND CURIOSITIES. VAN AMBURGH'S COLLECTION OF WILD AND DOMESTIC ANIMALS.

WINTER GARDEN.
THIS AFTERNOON—HAMLET, Mr. Edwin Booth. THIS EVENING—ITALIAN OPERA—FRA DIAVOLO.

NIBLO'S GARDEN.
THIS EVENING—THE BLACK CROOK—Great Parisienne Ballet Troupe.

BOOTH'S THEATRE.
THIS EVENING—MARIE STUART, Mr. Edwin Booth.

BOWERY THEATRE.
THIS EVENING—THE DOUBLE DAUGHTER, Mr. Chas. Thorne, Jr., Mr. Chas. Fisher, Mrs. Jennie Kimball.

BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC.
THIS EVENING—ITALIAN OPERA—LA SONNAMBULA.

NEW-YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY.
THE WASHINGTON TWINS—ANATOMICAL COLLECTION.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN.
SEVENTY-FIRST ANNUAL EXHIBITION.

STEINWAY HALL.
THIS EVENING—THIRD WEDNESDAY POPULAR CONCERT.

IRVING HALL.
THIS AFTERNOON—FIRST GRAND MATINEE OF MR. WEBB.

STUYVESANT INSTITUTE.
FIFTH EXHIBITION OF FRENCH AND FLEMISH PICTURES.

Business Notices.

THE GORHAM MANUFACTURING COMPANY SILVERSMITHS.

GORHAM APOLLO

SPIEGEL EISEN.

SILVER EISEN.

PREPARED OIL OF PALM AND MACE.

THE MARVEL OF PERU.

BOYS' ALL-WOOL.

THE HOLIDAYS.

HATCHELOR'S HAIR DYE.

FOR MARKING LINEN, &C.

SEVERE COUGHS AND COLDS are being rapidly produced by the sudden changes of weather incident to our climate.

HISTORY.

BEAUTIFUL HAIR.

CATARRH—PAIN AND NOISE IN THE HEAD.

THEY ARE ALL THERE.

AT EVERDELL'S CARD DEPOT.

FLORENCE.

MECALFE'S GREAT RHEUMATIC REMEDY.

RHEUMATISM, NEURALGIA, HEART DISEASE.

THE ARM AND LEG.

IMPROVED LOCK-STITCH MACHINES.

TRUSSES, ELASTIC STOCKINGS.

WHEELER & WILSON'S LOCK-STITCH SEWING.

ELASTIC S. M. CO.'S LOCK-STITCH SEWING-MACHINE.

GROVER & BAKER'S HIGHEST PREMIUM ELASTIC.

Carte Vignette, $2 per dozen.

MOTT'S CHEMICAL POMADE.

CHRISTADORO'S HAIR DYE.

DAME'S PULMO-BRONCHIAL TROCHES.

SEWING-MACHINES.

A SURE PILE CURE.

DAVIS COLLAMORE & CO.,
No. 479 Broadway, 4 doors below Broome-st.,
Having Enlarged their Store by Extending it through to Mercer-st., have added
SILVER PLATED WARE
to their Large Stock of
CHINA AND GLASSWARE.
We desire Especial Attention to a Large Assortment of NEW CHINA DINING SETS.

DR. WISTAR'S BALSAM OF WILD CHERRY
ONE OF THE OLDEST AND MOST RELIABLE REMEDIES IN THE WORLD FOR
COUGHS, COLDS, HOARSENESS, BRONCHITIS,
And all diseases of the THROAT, LUNGS, and CHEST.
Sold by J. P. DINSMORE, No. 36 Dey-st., New-York,
And by Druggists and Apothecaries generally.

WILCOX & GIBBS'S SEWING-MACHINE.—"Its seam is less liable to rip than the lock-stitch."—"Judges' Decision" at the "Grand Trial." Send for samples of both stitches. No. 505 Broadway.

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near Fourth-st., MEERSCHAUM PIPE MANUFACTURERS.
Pipes cut to order, repaired and mounted.

New-York Daily Tribune.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1866.

TO ADVERTISERS.

We will thank our advertising customers to hand in their Advertisements as early an hour as possible. If received after 8 o'clock they cannot be classified under their proper heads.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice can be taken of Anonymous Communications. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer—not necessarily for publication, but as a guaranty for his good faith.

All business letters for this office should be addressed to "THE TRIBUNE," New-York.

We cannot undertake to return rejected Communications.

☞ *On the second page will be found to-day the Civil Courts, the Money article and the Markets; on the third, a report of the Meeting of the Trustees of the Cornell University, and other matters, and on the sixth page the Literary Notices.*

☞ *The Weekly Tribune, ready this morning, contains a Letter from Bayard Taylor; Speeches of Gen. Butler and Wendell Phillips; Correspondence from Venice—The evacuation, and its occupation by the Italians; A Month Among the Pennsylvania Coal Mines; New Publications; Books of the Week; Boston Literary Items; Fine Arts; Science; Literary; Foreign Miscellany; Personal and General News Items; The Paris Exposition; Mining; American Institute Farmers' Club; Agricultural Items; Editorials; Election Intelligence; Juarez and Ortega; Dry Goods, Grain, Provision, and Cattle Markets; Summary of the Latest News, &c.*

After all, it would appear that the threats of Stephens, the Fenian leader, of an outbreak in Ireland before the end of the present year, were not mere sounding words. Our dispatches by the Atlantic Cable, published this morning, bring us startling intelligence. The Irish have taken up arms against the Government, and military and naval measures have been promptly set on foot by the authorities in England for the suppression of the outbreak. The extent and the whereabout of the insurrection are not stated, but from the tenor of our dispatches we infer that this conflagration must be an extensive one. The London press, of course, urges stern repressive measures. The public here will await further advices relative to this business with lively anxiety.

From the brief summary of Gov. Orr's message to the Legislature, it appears that the "experiment" of free labor has not been unsuccessful in South Carolina. The Constitutional Amendment is, of course, opposed.

We print to-day additional and important details of the whisky frauds, which show that swindling has been made an art by these enterprising distillers. The exposure seems to have but begun; when it is ended the revelations are likely to astonish the public.

A dispatch from San Francisco states that 700 French troops have been cut to pieces by the Mexican Liberals, 200 having been killed and the rest made prisoners. It can hardly be expected that the French will effect their withdrawal without meeting with some similar accidents.

In the municipal election held in the city of Hartford, on Monday, the Republican ticket throughout was elected by an average majority of 194. This is a Republican gain of nearly 700 over the Spring election, when the city voted Democratic by 479 majority.

The impending difficulty on the Mexican question seems to be attributable to Napoleon's unwillingness to withdraw the French troops from Mexico, according to the arrangements originally made on this head. The United States Government, however, will act up to the letter of that arrangement; and Gen. Sherman, it is asserted, has instructions to this effect for his guidance.

The Trustees of the Cornell University have elected the Hon. ANDREW D. WHITE of Syracuse (instead of Andrew D. *Norton*, as the telegraph blunderingly informed us,) as President of the Faculty of that institution. This selection is one eminently fit to be made. Prof. White is a ripe scholar, an experienced and successful educator, and a gentleman of the highest character, possessing the most promising qualities for a successful administration of the high trust committed to his hands. We give in another column a sketch of the proceedings of the Board at its late meeting.

There is much in the spirit of Mr. Henry S. Foote's letter to Judge Sharkey that we unreservedly commend, albeit there is no occasion for heavy drafts upon the ancients to prove that something is wrong just now between the North and South. The letter is too long to quote fully; but the writer's motive may be inferred when he says that "should Congress find that it is not now in its power, by any scheme of pacification, which, in conjunction with the President, may be agreed upon, to rescue the country from the perils which at present surround it, and the proposition of a National Convention shall receive its approval, I have not the least doubt that the people of both sections will see the necessity of calling into employment for this momentous experiment the best and ablest men whom they shall find in their midst." Mr. Foote's intentions may win more favorable judgment than his proposition, which suggests no uncommon expedient, and has been rather rudely anticipated by the Wigwam failure at Philadelphia. But, of course, we can oppose no sincere overture of the South toward a definite agreement as to ends of permanent peace and justice. We remember, however, that conventions make speeches, and not laws; and that they failed utterly to avert a dreadful civil war.

New-York has twenty-five or more ferries which carry daily about two hundred and eighty thousand people. There are thousands of boats or vessels, registered under the steamship law, and compelled to provide the common appliances of safety, which, in the aggregate, do not carry quite as many as this enormous number. When we reflect that between New-York and its neighbor cities and towns, exists the largest ferriage on the continent, it is simply astounding that the ferry companies take little or no precaution to avert loss of life, and are not held to a strict accountability by any law. The act of Congress has jurisdiction only over the passage between States, and thus the ferry companies between here and New-Jersey are obliged by license to take care of the lives of their passengers, while those on the East River are unlicensed and irresponsible. So long as this continues, the ferry traffic is more or less a trade in men's lives, and we shall not look to see always so lucky an escape from danger as that of the passengers on the boat so recently burned. The public opinion of 280,000 people, ferried daily, ought to compel the most senseless of corporations to have care in time of human life.

OUR MEXICAN DIPLOMACY.

Perhaps the two grandest blunders ever perpetrated by our Government were the two with which it inaugurated our foreign policy at the beginning of the war—blunders at once monstrous in their folly and untruth, blind in their motive, and most disastrous in their results. Next in order comes the humiliating exhibition of our national diplomacy presented in its treatment of the Mexican question, from the reduction of Vera Cruz, by the triple expedition, to the recent armed intervention of our Government in the domestic concerns of Mexico, by their arbitrary arrest and imprisonment of a constitutional claimant to the Presidency of the Republic.

When Mr. Seward, in April, 1861, advised Europe, through our ministers abroad, that the President, so far from rejecting, willingly accepted the dogma of the Rebels "that the Federal Government could not reduce the seceding States to obedience by conquest;" when he assured the world that "Only an Imperial despotic government could subjugate thoroughly insurrectionary members of the State," and that "this federal republican system of ours is the very one which is the most unfitted for such a labor;" the declaration inevitably encouraged the unfriendly Courts of Europe to doubt both our right and our power to suppress the rebellion by war. It furnished them with new apologies and inducements—had any been needed—to assist the rebellion, by their moral influence, their diplomacy, and so far as they dared, by a loose reading of international neutrality. This continued until the faith and achievements of the American people, dissipating year by year the low-toned ideas of American nationality propagated from Washington, compelled the world to recognize the fact that in this Republic the constitutional will of the people is supreme, and that, when armed rebellion against that will is exhibited by thoroughly insurrectionary members of the State, and the occasion arises to conquer the rebellion and restore obedience due to law and order, this Government, of all the governments known in history, is the best fitted for that labor.

The second blunder perpetrated about the same time—one equally with the first confirmatory of a dogma of the Rebels, and equally demoralizing and damaging to our national reputation, in misstating and caricaturing our position, and subjecting us to the jibes and jeers of Christendom, was our bold denial that Slavery was connected with the Rebellion, or that it would be affected by the result. On the 22d of April, 1861, Mr. Seward wrote to Mr. Dayton, and it is believed that this letter, like the one already quoted, was neither inspired nor approved by Mr. Lincoln:

"The revolution is without a cause; it has not even a pretext. It is just as clear that it is without an object. * * The condition of Slavery in the several States will remain just the same whether it succeed or fail. * * The rights of the States, and the condition of every human being in them, will remain subject to exactly the same laws and forms of administration, whether the revolution shall succeed or fail."

"This incontestible statement," as the dispatch went on to characterize it, was line by line refuted by Mr. Seward himself, in eloquent letters written in subsequent years, showing that Slavery was the head and front of the Rebellion, and that the war continued simply because Slavery still existed, and his attestation of the Emancipation Proclamation pronounced the failure of his rash prophecies.

How far the solemn official assurance—directly confirming the position taken by the Rebel emissaries at European Courts, that Slavery was *not* the cause or object of the Rebellion, and that the National Government was as resolved to maintain Slavery as that of Jefferson Davis—how far that great mistake confused for a time the mind of Europe, alienating our friends, emboldening our enemies, enabling Cabinets to combine for our destruction, with no check from the anti-Slavery sympathies of the people, either in England or on the Continent, will never be fully known. But each new development of the secret history of the Rebellion on the other side of the water will show more and more plainly the extent to which, on sea and land, our difficulties and dangers and sacrifices were multiplied, enhanced and prolonged by those terrific blunders of the Government at Washington which tended, for long and weary months, to thwart the honest and able diplomacy of Mr. Dayton and Mr. Adams.

The character and object of the French invasion of Mexico seem to have been from the start understood and appreciated by the whole world, excepting only the head of our State Department. The grand object declared to our Government was to recover certain debts due by Mexico. The pretense held forth to the Mexicans was a disinterested desire, on the part of the French Emperor, to assist them in forming "a stable and durable government, based upon peace and morality." Behind these published avowals were the palpable motives, plain to be seen and easy to be understood, afforded by the doubtful speculations of M. Jecker and the Count de Morny, and by the ambitious project of Napoleon, frankly avowed in his letter to Gen. Forey, to restrict the boundaries and the power of the American Republic, and to establish French influence in the heart of this Continent.

Apart from the general policy of the Monroe doctrine, the letter to Gen. Forey made the invasion a menace and an insult to the American Government and the American people.

It was so understood in France, in England—every where but at Washington. Even in the French Senate, that great lawyer, M. Berryer, the venerable and eloquent advocate of world-wide fame, referring to our country, said: "Do not forget that there is offense to her in the expedition to Mexico. * * The expedition was partly undertaken against the United States." And quoting again from the letter to Gen. Forey, he declared; "the Republic of the North will not endure the Imperial Monarchy of Mexico; and war will break out sooner or later."

Our Government seems to have early resolved to pay no regard to the caution given by Mr. Dayton in Paris, and by Mr. Corwin in Mexico, as to the falsity of the French declaration—to shut their eyes to the plainest truths, and to believe only what might be told them by Louis Napoleon. To swallow the assurances of the French Court, in the face of the clearest facts, one would have supposed an impossible task for any government; but ours received each new assurance of M. Thouvenel with such an appearance of child-like faith that, if it were indeed real, the future historian, in discussing the diplomacy of the two Governments, will be puzzled which most to admire, the duplicity of the one or the credulity of the other. On the 24th of June, 1862, Mr. Seward wrote to Mr. Corwin:

"Notwithstanding the course adopted by the French agents and army in Mexico, the Government of France still reassures us that it is their purpose to be content with an adjustment of grievances, leaving it exclusively to the people of Mexico to determine their own form of government, and in no case to put up or to maintain any one that may come in consequence of the war."

A month later, (July 14, 1862,) Mr. Seward wrote to Mr. Corwin:

"It is very certain that the idea of preparing a throne in Mexico for an Austrian prince, if ever entertained, was long since dissembled."

That our own difficulties at that time should influence the tone of our foreign policy can be readily understood, although a timid policy always invites aggression and contempt. The more critical our situation, the more manly, dignified and fearless, should have been our language to the French Emperor, who had seized the opportunity afforded by the Rebellion to humble and insult us. But why, in its correspondence with our own ministers, the Government should have deemed it worth while to ignore facts and plant itself on illusions, is an unexplained mystery.

The French Emperor was evidently encouraged to believe, not simply that the United States would offer no armed opposition to his schemes, but even that they might be persuaded to recognize Maximilian when his troops were withdrawn; and the first order for their withdrawal, given in October, 1865, was based upon such a proposition from the American Minister at Paris.

The subsequent agreement, made in April, 1866, provided for the removal of the troops in three detachments—the first in this present November; and it now appears that the Emperor proposes, from motives of necessity or convenience, to delay the departure of the first detachment until the coming Spring; and it is intimated that our Government is about to vindicate the dignity of the country by compelling them to sail on the instant.

That the expedition is an entire failure is admitted by the French Government. The Mexicans have vindicated their ability to defeat, without our assistance, the designs of Louis Napoleon, backed though they were by French, Austrian, and Belgian legions. At this late hour, the amount of glory to be won in ridding Mexico of her invaders by joining in the war will hardly be excessive, especially as France is intent upon her Industrial Exposition.

The French Emperor has officially admitted the utter failure of his expedition, and a letter from M. Drouyn de Lhuys to the French Minister at Mexico (Jan. 15, 1866), after a frank picture of the powerlessness and poverty of the Mexican Government, and the hopelessness of supplying its deficit, adds:

"Mexico not being able to pay the troops which we keep upon her territory, it becomes impossible for us to keep them there. As for asking fresh credit of our country with this object, I have already explained myself to you on this head. As I have told you, public opinion has pronounced with irrefragible authority that the limit was reached. France would refuse to add anything, and the Emperor would not ask it."

We shall refer, another day, to the reported approval by our Cabinet of the imprisonment of Gen. Ortega, and the proposed establishment of an American Protectorate over the people of Mexico.

THE CHARGES AGAINST CONTROLLER BRENNAN.

The trial of the charges of official misconduct preferred against Controller Matthew T. Brennan, which was commenced day before yesterday at the Police Headquarters before Commissioner Sedgwick, proceeds with commendable and really extraordinary dispatch. So much pertinent testimony was never before, in a similar trial, educed in so short a time. In two days, the evidence in respect to three of the most important charges has been taken, and the impression is strong that those three charges have been sustained. A short summary of the evidence may give our readers a startling idea of the manner in which the public money is disposed of.

In respect to the charge: That the Controller (Brennan), in the year 1864, without authority of law, presented to Orison Blunt $50,000 of the public moneys, the proof shows, that in that year the Board of Supervisors passed a resolution authorizing the Volunteering Committee of the Board to present a "*suitable testimonial*" to Mr. Blunt, in recognition of his patriotic services in having the quota of soldiers due from this City, in that dark hour of our country's peril, reduced nearly one-half; that such Committee thereupon presented to Mr. Blunt a service of plate and a set of engrossed resolutions at a cost of $7,350, for which the public money was paid by the Controller; that not contented with this, the same Committee, without any further authority, drew a check of $50,000 and gave it to Mr. Blunt as a further testimonial, and that Controller Brennan signed the warrant for that $50,000, and it was thereupon paid Mr. Blunt out of the public moneys; that a little while after this Mr. Blunt, who was then a member of the Board of Supervisors, introduced a resolution into the Board to give *Controller Brennan* a "testimonial," for *his* services in adjusting the riot claims; that Mayor Gunther refused to approve this last resolution, because he was afraid that the object of it was to give Controller Brennan another $50,000 out of the public moneys; that in order to induce Mayor Gunther to approve this scheme, something was said to him (the Mayor) about getting another resolution passed to give him a "testimonial," but the Mayor declined the temptation, and refused to sanction Brennan's little present; that some 12 weeks after Blunt got his $50,000 he filed vouchers to that amount, for volunteer bounties, with the Controller, in order to make it appear that he (Blunt) had not kept the money for his own use; that the books of the Controller's department had been doctored with interlineations, in red ink, with the same design, so that the books now read, "October 3, 1864, testimonial to Mr. Blunt, $50,000," and in *red ink* there is interlined below it, "expended for 170 volunteers;" that this interlineation was made subsequently to the original entry, and does not appear in the Controller's quarterly report of vouchers drawn; that the laws of this State expressly require all bills to be presented to the Board of Supervisors, and passed by them before being paid; but that the Controller paid this $50,000 to Mr. Blunt without its being passed by the Board; that the voucher for this $50,000 declared it to be for a "service of plate," and that Brennan certified upon the voucher that such a service of plate, worth $50,000, had been furnished, *while, in fact, no such service of plate had been furnished*, and the whole sum in cash had been paid to Blunt.

In respect to the charge that Controller Brennan had, without authority of law, paid out between seven and eight hundred thousand dollars in the years 1864 and 1865 for street cleaning, the proof shows: That the Legislature appropriated $300,000 in 1864 for cleaning the streets, and directed a contract to be made by Brennan, Boole and the Mayor for that purpose; that Mr. Badger offered to enter into a contract to do it for that sum; that his offer was rejected because of "some informality," and the cleaning of the streets was permitted by Brennan and the rest to be proceeded with by Boole at a cost of $800,000 for the year, or half a million of dollars more than the law allowed for the purpose; that Brennan and the rest raised this $800,000 by giving their *personal notes* to Mr. Palmer, who advanced the money to pay the cost of cleaning streets; that Palmer then sued the City for the whole sum, and Brennan and the rest suffered judgment to be entered against the City, in favor of Palmer, and then Brennan, as Controller, paid the $800,000 out of the public moneys—not for "street cleaning," but for the new and novel account, "Judgments"—thus evading the law which had provided only $300,000 for the real purpose; that when Brennan had paid these judgments his *personal notes* were surrendered by Palmer; that this was a covert evasion of the charter of the City, which provides that no liability should be incurred unless an appropriation to pay it has been first made; that Brennan, by giving his private notes to Palmer, had thus bound himself to use his official position as Controller, to suffer judgment against the City, and to practically violate the law of the State.

In respect to the charge that Controller Brennan had from personal motives refused to pay a just bill of Mr. Herrick, the publisher of *The Atlas*, for advertising public proceedings, the proof shows that Herrick for several years had abused Brennan in his paper, stigmatizing him as a "dead rabbit," "the head of the official swindlers," etc., etc., and had persistently charged him with the foulest corruption; that Herrick had bills against the County for about $460, which Brennan for over two years refused to pay; that in December, 1865, Herrick, in a letter published in his paper, retracted his charges of corruption against Brennan; that the very next month a vast job of County advertising was given to Herrick, to the amount of nearly $800, and that that amount was promptly paid to Herrick by Brennan, without any demur or objection whatever.

Comment on these facts, thus officially investigated and ready to be transmitted to the Governor, is unnecessary; but in view of Brennan's late epistle to the public, in which he claims to be considered an innocent and persecuted man, they are remarkable. We hope the respectable gentlemen who signed their names to the complimentary address to this lamblike official may have some undiscovered cause for not regretting their indorsement. As the matter stands, the Citizens' Association can consider its course toward Mr. Brennan vindicated in an official and dignified manner.

"JOHN BROWN" IN IRELAND.

It is related of Robert Hall, the celebrated pulpit orator, that, upon hearing the news of the triumph of the Allies at the battle of Waterloo, he remarked that the clock of human progress had been put back by that event half a century. It is not too much to say that, had the North been defeated in our late civil war—had rebellion prevailed over loyalty—had the Union been severed in twain—the clock would have been again put back for a century at least. To estimate aright the greatness of our triumph, in the interests of human freedom, we have only to bear in mind what would have been the certain fruits of discomfiture, in riveting the chains of political serfdom upon the struggling nationalities of Europe and of chattel Slavery upon the negro race elsewhere. The ill-concealed jubilation with which the news of the outbreak of civil war in this country was received by the British Tories and other reactionists of the Old World; the prophecies in which they freely indulged of the inevitable disruption of the Republic, and the consequent utter failure of the great modern experiment of democratic government; the palpable gladness with which tidings of the reverses of the Northern armies were welcomed and published; the evident disappointment and chagrin caused by news of Northern victories;—all these prove how keenly tyranny was alive to the deep stake it had in the issues of the bloody drama of our four long years of civil war. Had the flag of the Union been trailed in the dust, the effects of that calamity would have been felt for generations to come.

But the subject presents itself in another aspect. We see the greatness of the victory we have achieved in its positive results. Everywhere, the triumph of the cause of the Union has imparted fresh life and given new vigor to those who are doing battle for liberty. To appreciate aright the significance of the great Reform movement now agitating England from one end to the other, we must read it in the light which streams from the history of our late civil war. If the leaders of that movement, in their addresses to the people, make frequent allusion to the United States and its republican form of government; and if every such reference, as if touching a sensitive chord in the popular heart, elicits enthusiastic applause, we need not wonder. The leaders of the people are alive to the moral weight which such an example as America furnishes must give to their advocacy of popular rights; and the people themselves are convinced that our cause is theirs. In our efforts and sacrifices to preserve this Government, we are, in fact, laboring and suffering for the oppressed everywhere; for wherever man is struggling to recover the birthright which class legislation and prescriptive privilege have wrested from him, it is instinctively felt, alike by rulers and subjects, that the triumph of Republicanism here will be the death-blow of tyranny the world over. Robert Hall was right. Waterloo was the culmination of a twenty-five years struggle between caste and privilege on the one side, and popular rights on the other. The iniquitous compact known as the Holy Alliance, proves the real character of the struggle. The detestable treaty of Venice was the natural sequel of the blood-bought victory. But the clock is going forward once more, never, we believe, to be put back again. Gettysburg has retrieved the Waterloo disaster. It is to America, not to France, that the sacred task of vindicating liberty is now entrusted. "John Brown" is the Marseillaise of the new era. The memory of the old hero, who braved the deadly fury of the slaveholder, is destined to exert in time to come a more powerful—because a purer moral—influence than the magic name of the first Napoleon.

It would appear that, in unhappy Ireland, the influence of our late war, in the direction just indicated, has been most powerfully felt. This was made unmistakeably manifest during Mr. Bright's late visit to Dublin. At one of the meetings he attended in that city, we are told that the song of "John Brown" occupied a prominent place in the programme of the evening. The song was hushed only to hear the great orator. When he concluded his speech, it was taken up again. When a delegate from the London Reform League rose to speak, he was interrupted by the chorus of "John Brown." And when the chairman tried to restore order, "John Brown," sung with hearty good will, completely drowned his voice. "John Brown" embodies a sentiment deep-seated in the Irish heart; and, more than this—it represents a principle dear to the oppressed everywhere, longing and looking for the day of their deliverance from bondage. This simple ditty, which fired the souls of our black soldiers, and, in its inspiriting influence upon them, made heroes of down-trodden and despised slaves, has become, as we have intimated, a hymn of liberty; and its refrain, wherever heard, awakens fresh hopes in the hearts of the struggling peoples. It is thus that martyrs are ever more powerful in their silent, posthumous influence than they were in their living labors. The proto-martyr in our late struggle with Slavery, "being dead, yet speaketh;" for he gave his life a sacrifice in that cause with which the brightest hopes and the dearest interests of Humanity are indissolubly bound up. He ranks now with the noblest of the representative dead; and that "soul" of his is "marching on" to certain and glorious victory.

"John Brown" in Ireland, touching and rousing the enthusiasm of the Irish heart;—what does this mean? It means ultimate liberation from a debasing political serfdom; it means the approaching triumph of justice over oppression and wrong. It is the battle-cry of Freedom; it is the warning note of approaching revolution—a revolution, which, whether through the bloody instrumentality of civil war, or by means of political organization and action, it is now clear, must be eventually accomplished. But "John Brown" as the embodiment of certain vital principles, as the expression of a lofty and sacred purpose, is yet to be heard in other lands where tyranny still holds undisputed sway.

ERRORS IN OUR RAILROAD SYSTEM.

American railroads are built with borrowed capital, and are managed in the interest of the stockholders, without very special regard for the rights of the people, for whose accommodation, it is popularly supposed, railroad companies are chartered, rights of way granted, and roads constructed.

A projected road that will require $15,000,000 of capital to construct and equip, is usually started with a paid-in capital of about $5,000,000, and the remainder is borrowed on mortgage bonds; so that, when completed and equipped, the road and rolling-stock rest under an indebtedness equal to two-thirds of their full value. To pay this debt and thereby enhance the value of stocks upon which only one-third of the face has been paid in by the holder, is the first duty of the directors. The road must therefore literally earn itself, and become, in its intrinsic value, as well as in its quarterly dividends, net profit to the owners.

True, very many lines of road have not yet attained this much desired result for their stockholders; yet all are managed with a view to this end. Occasionally, despairing of speedily clearing a road of debt, the directors resort to the scheme of declaring large dividends and the issuing of additional stock, whereby large profits are made, and the road passed into the hands of new owners, from whom it is usually sold for the payment of the original mortgages.

Another sequence of the credit system of railroad building is slight and insecure structure; hastily thrown up road-beds, wooden bridges, light rails, and want of ballast. Its cardinal rule is cheapness of structure; which, aside from being bad economy in the end, is at the outset exceedingly vicious. In addition, therefore, to paying the original cost of the road, the earnings are taxed to carry on the work of expensive rebuilding, almost from the day of completion. Under this system, coupled with the speculative management and stockjobbing operations, which it creates and fosters, railroads must continue, as now, expensive luxuries to the people who use them. Reasonable rates of fares and freights are incompatible with the present ideas of railroad managers, and are unattainable under their theories of building and working roads.

A heavy item of expense also entailed on cheap-built roads is the enormous bills of casualties, resulting from the wholesale destruction of life. Passengers who are not killed must be heavily taxed to pay for the lives of those less fortunate than themselves. If our road-beds were laid down more solidly, and their superstructures built more substantially, railroad companies might be spared the crime of killing men and the expense of paying damages therefor; and thus, a heavy annual outlay being spared, a proportionate reduction in charges could be made without a diminution of profits in the business.

In England and in continental Europe, capitalists put money into railroad-building as permanent investments, and are content to receive round quarterly dividends, which greatly exceed the amount of interest the capital would logally produce. The roads are, therefore, constructed in the most substantial and durable manner known to mechanic art; beds of stone, bridges of iron, and rails of steel are employed; no money is spared at the sacrifice of strength of structure. And, for this reason, these roads are run at a much smaller annual expense. Here, in a few years, the bill of repairs equals the original cost of the road, and thus consumes the sums that would otherwise have gone to the account of net profits; there, expense of keeping the road in perfect working condition is but a trifle, and hence the net earnings go to the credit of stockholders as dividends.

The theory, that roads must be managed so as to speedily earn the whole amount of their cost, and return it into the pockets of the owners of stock, is monstrous and should not be tolerated. A net income over the cost of running and maintaining a line of railroad, equal to double the legal rate of interest on the capital invested, should satisfy even the most avaricious holders of these public franchises, and put a limit to their charges. This might be attained upon a schedule of prices for passengers and freights much below the present oppressive rates.

INSPECTION OF FLOUR.

Will the State of New-York have a standard for Flour manufactured in the State and exported, and an Inspector appointed, duly commissioned, and required by law to inspect, decide upon the grade, and mark or brand upon the barrel each grade or rank in such manner as the law of the State may prescribe? Forty years ago this State had a law, and a faithful Inspector to enforce it. Under his administration the Flour of the State of New-York attained a high, an enviable character—with the exception of a few Southern brands of Flour, made expressly for warm climates—above that of any other State in the Union. Now there is no law upon the subject; or, if there is a law, no one is appointed to execute it, and millers and shippers, as an old Inspector lately expressed it, put on, scrape off and restore names and marks, as imprint on their barrels such names and devices as they please.

Is it compatible with the character of the great State of New-York to permit Flour, unsound flour, of a grade that in any other State would hardly pass as Middlings, to go abroad branded Superfine, Extra, &c., and dressed off with fanciful colors and pictures? Flour that sells at $8 a barrel, and is dear at that, when good Flour, from other States, commands from $14 to $16. Where is the pride of New-York, of her millers, merchants and denizens? Where her regard for the interests of the State, if nothing but secondary motives will teach her wisdom? It is said, on trustworthy authority, that Boston is now receiving more Western Flour than New-York. That Boston has a stock of half a million barrels, while New-York has not half that quantity. It is also said that Boston has a good of standard inspection, and faithful inspectors to sustain it.

When Western millers have Flour of a high grade, they show their wisdom in sending it to a market that has a high and reliable standard—where the inspector's marks and brands are regarded as evidence of the genuine character of the article.

The Legislature of New-York will, ere long, be in session, and will, by the passage of a judicious law, have power to restore this important staple of the exports of this State to its former high standing and character. The law need not require the Flour of other States, which has been inspected in their several States, to be reinspected here on exportation. The expediency, if not the power, to change the grades of Flour from other States, where it has been duly inspected and branded, and while it remains in original packages, may be questioned. In respect to soundness, order and weight, authority to reinspect, by consent of parties interested, may be a good provision of law.

The predicted meteor-shower, which was looked for so anxiously here, but did not visit us, duly made its appearance in England, according to the calculations which had fixed on the 13th or the 14th inst. as the time when the remarkable phenomenon would present itself. We publish elsewhere an account of the wondrous spectacle as seen in London and other parts of England. Some of the papers gave labored and timid descriptions of the wondrous sight, whereat *The London Spectator* pokes fun in the following fashion:

"But few of the newspapers escaped the disastrous failure which usually accompanies the effort to be comical. The fiery drops have glided down the sky, and the predictions of science have been verified," wrote one of the more rational, where the catastrophe is clearly rather flat after such a struggle. Another was great upon a "caravan of starlets, a phrase which suggests, happily enough, camels, sand and diminutive stars; but as there were neither camels, nor sand, nor any perceptible difference in size between the shooting stars and the steady ones, it was rather ingeniously distracting that descriptive. With a delicate feeling for its true role, *The Morning Star* was more quiet and dignified than any of its penny contemporaries. It twinkled mildly of these meteoric competitors, avoiding all showiness and display.

Under the general Railroad act of this State, passed in 1850, a Company has recently organized for the purpose of building a road on the west bank of the Hudson, between New-York and Albany. No route has yet been selected, but an engineer has been directed to make surveys, and to report upon the most feasible line. It is estimated that the road will cost $6,000,000; and to procure this, books have been opened for subscriptions in the cities and the principal intervening towns.

ILLINOIS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—This Society holds its yearly meeting this year at Champaign, on the Illinois Central, 136 miles south of Chicago, commencing Dec. 11. It promises to be of great interest to the West, and to fruit-growers generally. The various enemies and obstacles to fruit-growing, best methods, best sorts for different soils, climates and situations, will be discussed by experienced cultivators. There will be new light and valuable hints; and the tree-planting interest, representing millions of dollars in Illinois alone, is likely to be advanced.

QUEENS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The following officers were unanimously reelected at the annual meeting of the Queens County Agricultural Society: Samuel S. Taber, President; Wm. Fearn, Vice-President; John Hicks, Secretary and Treasurer. The receipts from all sources during the year amounted to over $32,000. It was stated at the annual meeting of the society that one of its members, Mr Benjamin Hicks of Great Neck, had in carting hay to New-York travelled over 75,000 miles, equal to girdling the earth three times in hay wagon.