

New-York Daily Tribune

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1867.

TERMS OF THE TRIBUNE.

DAILY TRIBUNE, Mail Subscribers, \$10 per annum. SEMI-WEEKLY TRIBUNE, Mail Subscribers, \$4 per annum. WEEKLY TRIBUNE, Mail Subscribers, \$2 per annum.

THE TRIBUNE ALMANAC for 1868 will contain a limited number of advertisements.

TO ADVERTISERS.

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Wood Pavements, the New Sewerage System, Reconstruction in Florida, Legislative Officers in Kentucky, Justice and Common Sense.

France, says M. Rouher, has abandoned all idea of an aggrandizement of her territory by treaty or conquest.

Texas is now the only State in which no reconstruction election has been held.

Gen. Ord has ordered the assembling of the Reconstruction Conventions of Arkansas and Mississippi to assemble on the 7th of January.

The Colorado Legislature organized at Golden City on the 2d inst.

The Georgia State Convention was organized yesterday by the election of a President and other officers.

The Fenians in Liverpool intend to follow the example of Dublin, Cork, Limerick, and other cities, in arranging a grand funeral procession in honor of their executed brethren.

The Virginia Convention yesterday adopted the ordinance fixing the pay of members at \$8 a day.

M. Rouher's explanations on the Roman question have caused great joy among the clerical party.

Florida has chosen a Convention by about 800 majority over the number of votes necessary to secure it.

In the Senate, yesterday, a bill was offered and referred, providing that legal-tender notes shall be taken for all dues to the Government.

A new leader for the Democracy has arisen in Kansas. He sends the following letter to the editor of a Leavenworth paper:

DEAR SIR: Will you please inform me whether the magazine was carried at the late election.

The "Circle Commission" business has attracted so much attention that we venture to reprint its items especially as we have every assurance of their correctness.

Recorder Hackett, Commissioner \$3,000. Charles G. Halpine, Commissioner 2,500.

John J. Bradley, Senator elect, Commissioner 2,500.

Edward J. Wilson, Jr., Commissioner 2,500.

Ed. Jones, partner, for stationery, 60c.

tion for each succeeding year—that of 1867 only excepted. The issue for 1867 will complete a series of thirty annual registers of Election Returns, with other useful political and statistical matter, afforded for a trifling extra cost, though the preparation of each issue now involves a total cost of more than \$100,000.

By continuing the Independent Treasury System with its enormous unutilized hoard of Gold, as opposed to the National Banking System, in connection with which the same amount of gold, instead of deterring, would greatly aid a return to specie payments; by free trade; and, in short, by the revival of all the financial doctrines whereby the Democratic party broke down the National Government, in order to build up State Sovereignty and Secession. We urge our Representatives in Congress to consider these questions, not separately, but as parts of two general systems of finance—the National system and the State system—one of which, if carried out, will restore the Democratic party to power, and reduce the National Government to its former weakness; and the other will maintain the Government with a financial power proportioned to its political responsibilities.

THE TEMPORAL POWER. "C." writes us at length on this subject, saying many things that are not in dispute, and on which we cannot, therefore, waste room. He says: "The Papal Government has been the lawful Government of Rome for many centuries. By what legitimate process shall it cease to be such lawful Government? How shall the allegiance of the people be legally transferred from the Pope to the King of Italy?"

Answer.—You assume a fact; for Rome has been governed by Ricci, by Napoleon, and by Mazzini—not to mention others who were not Popes and did not hold Popes. But this is immaterial. We hold that "governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed." Mazzini dared the Clericals, after France had reimposed their rule upon Rome in 1849, to let the people vote as to who should be their ruler. They dared not do it. We renew the demand. The Clericals know that the people are against them—that they govern by force of bayonets alone. They practically confess it. Rome just as palpably chooses to be capital of all Italy rather than what she is as Paris chooses to be capital of France or London of Great Britain. And so does C. know it; for he says:

When South Carolina voted, almost unanimously, to reject Federal sovereignty, she disregarded the vote, and compelled obedience; and, if the vote had been entirely unanimous, including blacks as well as whites, the act of the Federal Government would have been rightly the same.

Answer.—That may be your doctrine; you must allow us to differ. No such vote was ever taken as you assert, and the coerced acquiescence in Secession was that of an aristocratic minority, conspiring to increase and perpetuate their power over the enslaved majority. No such unanimity in favor of the dismemberment of this country can possibly occur if the people are all free, and all have a voice in their government. We do not agree that the right to dismember a country is the same as the right to resist its dismemberment; but, whenever one-third of our country—its people being all free and enfranchised—shall, by substantial unanimity, seek separation and independence, C. may make war upon them, but we shall not. "The consent of the governed" is truly affirmed by the Declaration to be the corner-stone of "just government."

TICKET SPECULATORS. It is high time that something should be done—if anything in this well-governed city can be done, except for rowdies and rum-sellers—to protect the public, as well as the theatrical managers, against the overwhelming nuisance of theatrical ticket speculators. The managers are utterly powerless in this matter. They are obliged, except under circumstances that rarely happen, to sell to all applicants. Any person not known to be disreputable or a disturber of the public peace may purchase theater-tickets.

Specimens, indeed, a regulation is adopted, to the effect that no more than a certain stipulated number of tickets shall be sold to any one person. But this barrier is, practically, of no avail against the enterprising speculator. He resorts to all sorts of subterfuges. He sends women, and children, even, to purchase for him. He impresses the unsophisticated stranger into his service, giving him one ticket, free by way of commission for buying many. Once possessed of his prize, there is no limit to his masculinity. Of course he charges an extra price for every ticket that he sells. Standing before the door of the theater, and sometimes venturing into the vestibule, he accosts everybody who approaches, thrusts himself in everybody's way, clamors like a town-crier, makes himself generally disgusting, and finally, by dint of good luck in finding greenhorns from the country, or occasional theater-goers who are ignorant of his character, or people who would rather pay an extra price for a ticket than wait a turn at the box-office—he contrives to sell his tickets, at a very considerable profit to himself. But this is not the worst of it. If the ticket-speculator would but sell honestly, and be contented with such legitimate profit as might be made without fleeing the ignorant and unwary, he might be endured, though even then he would be a superfluous and contemptible pest. But honesty is no part of his trade. For example: The orchestra admission ticket, as most readers probably know, has a check for a seat attached to it. The speculator will separate this check from the ticket; will sell the latter as a reserved seat—of course to some greenhorn, and of course for a large price; and will then sell the check, together with a common admission ticket, for as much money as he can get from somebody else. Alterations with the manager, or the door-keeper, frequently grow out of this form of swindling. The speculator, of course, cannot be identified. This brief illustration sufficiently shows the character of the imposition to which the public and the managers are subjected. It goes on every night at almost every place of public amusement. We can scarcely hope that the law will do anything to abate this nuisance; but the public ought to oppose it in the sternest manner. Never, under any circumstances, buy a theatrical ticket from a speculator, is the injunction that we would lay upon our readers. Tickets can just as easily, and much more safely, be purchased at the box-offices of the theaters. These are always open during the day. A little forethought and care will always enable the theater-goer to procure his ticket in advance, and thus to avoid delay or other inconvenience at night. To buy of speculators, on the contrary, is to pay extra prices; to incur the danger of being swindled; and, frequently, to become the recipient of counterfeit money. We trust that a word of warning on this subject may not be wasted. Many of the Dickens tickets have been bought by speculators, who are hawking them about now, at prices varying from \$10 to \$50. We hope nobody will be foolish enough to buy them. There will be other opportunities of hearing Mr. Dickens read; and meanwhile it would be a comfort to have the speculators discontinued.

The great number of foreigners and persons unacquainted with the city who are swindled at the ticket dens in the neighborhood of Albany-st., the foot of Chambers-st., and other

localities along the North River, calls for the preventive vigilance of the police. Why cannot policemen be detailed to watch these well-known haunts and warn strangers of their nature, as they formerly served the mock auction shops?

The result of the experiment of reducing the tolls on messages by the Atlantic Cable has been exactly what we predicted it would be. Every successive reduction has increased the profits of the company. The Atlantic Cable was launched July 27, 1866, and opened to the public the next day at a tariff of one hundred dollars in gold for a message of twenty words, in which were included the address, date, and signature; and two hundred dollars, if in code or cipher. On the 1st day of November, 1866, the tariff was reduced to one-half, or fifty dollars for a message, and one hundred dollars if in code or cipher. On the 1st of December, 1867, the tariff was reduced to twenty-five dollars for a message of ten words, whether in plain English or in code or cypher, and five words for address, date and signature free; and for the press one-half the above rates for political or general news, in plain English. The rates to the public are one-quarter what they were at first for a message in plain English, and one-eighth what they were for a message in code or cipher. Yet at these greatly reduced rates the number of messages has so much increased, that the amount of cash received daily is far greater than ever before.

There is a fierce contest at the West as to what city shall have the honor of entertaining the next National Republican Convention. Chicago offers immense but rather vague contributions for campaign expenses provided her hospitality is accepted, while Cincinnati comes down plump with a promise of \$15,000. Indianapolis bids in her claim, though with what particular bite in her hand we have not been informed. Suppose the Convention comes to New-York. This is the center of business activity, and ought to be the center of political enterprise. We can offer the members more than \$15,000 worth of amusement during their visit. They can see the Black Crook and the Golden Branch on alternate nights, and taste the moral dissipation of the Bunyan Panorama on Saturday afternoons. They can dine every day at Delmonico's, and hear the best of preaching on Sundays. All these entertainments would promote habitual good humor, and good humor would greatly facilitate the progress of their business and promote harmony in their discussions.

The Richmond Constitutional Convention the other day enjoyed the luxury of a "common-place" speech from Gov. Pierpont, and a "modest" one from Gov. Smythe of New-Hampshire. To-day, the Virginia Conservative Convention is to meet, for the purpose, among other things—so the dispatches tell us—of endorsing Gen. Grant. Somebody ought by all means to make speeches to the Conservative Convention. Suppose Gen. Sickles and Mr. Blair were to go. They could both talk about Grant. One might commit him to the sternest sort of Radicalism, and the other make him out a Democrat. One would paint him as a secret friend to impeachment, and the other as an advocate for the summary dispersion of Congress and the union of all three branches of the Government under a single supreme head. At any rate, we are confident that Sickles's speech would not be "commonplace" and Blair's would not be "modest."

A correspondent reminds us that during the municipal campaign in this city, the franks of Members of Congress used by the two Democratic candidates to send their circulars free through the mails were not written, but stamped, upon the envelopes. He calculates that the Post-Office lost about \$5,000 by this utterly unpardonable misuse of a law which is but enough even when legitimately applied. Mr. Wood and Mr. Chanler are mentioned by our correspondent as the offending Congressmen, but they were not the only ones. We have also seen the frank of the Hon. John Fox similarly prostituted.

The project of connecting Vera Cruz and New-Orleans by a submarine telegraph has been several times broached, and we wonder that capitalists have not yet taken up the enterprise. There are few countries in North America with which our relations are so peculiarly interesting as Mexico, and there is none with which our communication is so slow and uncertain. The distance from Vera Cruz to the mouth of the Mississippi is only some 800 miles, and there is no apparent reason why the laying of a cable across the Gulf of Mexico should not be easy.

We have authority for saying that Gen. Halpine, in consideration of his compensation as Recorder, and Recorder Hackett because of his pay as Recorder, and Mr. Bradley by reason of his salary as Senator, have resolved to tender their services gratuitously to the City as Commissioners of the Broadway Circle. This will be a saving of \$8,000. Mr. Wilson will not press his claim for \$5,000, and the "five dummies \$500 each" will accept \$100 all around. We hope Judge Barnard will appropriately notice this magnanimity from the bench.

Whisky was selling in New-York last week at \$1 27 1/2 a gallon, or 72 1/2 cents less than the Government tax. The Ways and Means Committee of Congress are discussing the collection of this tax, and there is a strong feeling, we understand, in favor of its reduction. We hope it will be reduced. Experience has proved that the present high impost acts as a premium on fraud, and is of no benefit whatever to the Treasury. Reduce it to a reasonable figure, and there will be some chance of its collection.

The Central Grant Campaign Club the other night elected as one of their delegates at large Gen. Charles G. Halpine. All doubt as to the political leanings of the General of the Army ought now to be set at rest. Gen. Halpine, as every body knows, has always been an uncompromising Radical Republican; of course he has; and we welcome his accession to the Club with unfeigned satisfaction.

The "Broadway Circle" bill of last week will be confirmed. Judge Barnard has looked into the matter, and finds the whole proceeding to be so iniquitous that he cannot, in honor, approve the bill.

It is so pleasant to find a Judge of the United States Court entering upon the Advertising Agency business!!!

The "National Convention" of whisky men, which assembled yesterday in Washington, has gone to work with much pomp and circumstance, electing permanent officers and standing committees. The legislation of this imposing body will be awaited with great anxiety,

especially that in reference to provision for widows and orphans. A bill is shortly to be brought before Congress for relieving from the disabilities of the Reconstruction act 284 citizens of Alabama. We are heartily glad of it. There is only one policy which can secure permanent tranquility at the South—justice for the blacks, mercy for the whites.

CHARLES DICKENS. HIS SECOND READING. Another crowd greeted Mr. Dickens with affectionate welcome last night, at Steinway Hall. The reading that was given comprised six chapters selected from "David Copperfield" and one from "Pickwick." In the former were included the episode of David and Dora and Steerforth and Emily, together with the description of a dinner with Wilkins Micawber. The latter was descriptive of Mr. Bob Sawyer's party in the lodging house of Mrs. Raddle. The shadows of pathos and the lights of humor are deftly blended in these selections, and they were faithfully and delightfully reproduced in the reader's interpretation. Simplicity, delicacy, reality—these are the chief elements of Mr. Dickens's method as a reader and as an actor. That they are the elements of his method as a writer was long ago known to every student of his literary art. The works that he has created could only have been created in one way: by minute, diligent, and long-continued observation of external life, faithful introspection, and conscientious labor—directed and governed by the instinct of taste. It was the opinion of Voltaire that the man of taste is more rare than the thinker. Mr. Dickens is both in one. He has been and is a great observer. He has "looked quite through the deeds of men." The object or the mood that he wishes to describe is first definitely fixed in his own mind, and is then as definitely pinned in words. No vagueness mars either the conception or the painting. His characters are real to him, and he makes them real to his readers; and therein consists the spell that he wields, no less as an actor than as a writer. In reflecting upon the Readings that he has given, the conviction of his absolute truthfulness comes home to the mind with new and irresistible force. He never puts on a mask. He has been an honest artist, from the first; and what he is doing now is only the natural outgrowth of what he has been doing all the days of his life. To have heard these readings is to have witnessed the spontaneous expression of a great nature in the maturity of its greatness. There is something fine and touching in the spectacle of a life so earnestly and so carefully symmetrical. Writers and actors may well take to their hearts the meaning of the success of Charles Dickens. To learn the lesson of his fidelity to the simple mechanical requisites of art would be an invaluable gain to many persons of both those classes. His Reading, last night, was not only a success, but a triumph. It was the first occasion he had ever presented Bob Cratchit, the Little Judge, Winkle, Wellier, and old Scrooge—in the latter case even to so slight a degree as the habit of putting the hand to the mouth when speaking—so, on the second occasion, he omitted no characteristic of the unctuous humor and stately bombast of the great old miser, Mr. Scrooge, personated Bob Cratchit, the Little Judge, Winkle, Wellier, and old Scrooge—in the latter case even to so slight a degree as the habit of putting the hand to the mouth when speaking—so, on the second occasion, he omitted no characteristic of the unctuous humor and stately bombast of the great old miser, Mr. Scrooge, personated Bob Cratchit, the Little Judge, Winkle, Wellier, and old Scrooge—in the latter case even to so slight a degree as the habit of putting the hand to the mouth when speaking—so, on the second occasion, he omitted no characteristic of the unctuous humor and stately bombast of the great old miser, Mr. Scrooge, 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