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MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1867.

TERMS OF THE TRIBUNE.

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THE TRIBUNE ALMANAC FOR 1868.

THIS POPULAR ANNUAL WILL BE READY ABOUT NEW-YEAR'S.

IT WILL CONTAIN: ASTRONOMICAL, &c.

Celestial-Jovial, Malicious. Calendar (January to December). Changes of the Moon; Planets on the Meridian; Sun on the Non-mark; Solar No.; Rising and Setting of the Sun and Moon throughout the United States.

Conjunctions, Lunar and Planetary. Eclipses for the year 1868. Planets, Conjunctions of Planets, and other Aspects.

Seasons. Star Tables. Tide Table of 119 Places.

POLITICAL.

THE GOVERNMENT.

Cabinet—The President. Congress—Members of the XLth. Executive Officers—General. Foreign Ministers.

January—Congress. First Officers of Members of Congress. Territories—Delegates from.

STATES OF THE UNION.

Area, Population (in 1850 and 1860, white, colored, and Indian). Increase of Population from 1850 to 1860; Number of Members of Congress; State Capital; Governors; State Legislatures; Time of Meeting of Legislatures.

ACTS OF CONGRESS.

Synopsis of the Principal Acts Passed at the Second Session of the XXXIXth Congress.

PUBLIC RESOLUTIONS.

The most important of the Public Resolutions Passed at the Second Session of the XXXIXth Congress.

PROCLAMATIONS.

All the Proclamations issued by the President from December, 1866, to October, 1867.

PROGRESS OF RECONSTRUCTION IN 1867.

Vote of State Legislatures on the Constitutional Amendment. The Executive Action of Congress. Progress of Impartial Suffrage. The President's Bureau.

MOVEMENT OF POPULATION.

Progress of the Population of the United States from 1790 to 1860. State Census since 1860.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The Public Debt in 1866 and 1867.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN 1868.

Vote of the Electoral College at former Presidential Elections. The Electoral College in 1868.

ELECTION RETURNS.

Returns from all the States and Territories holding Elections in 1867, carefully compiled and compared with former Elections. Under the head of Southern States will be given the number of white and colored voters registered in each County, and the number of votes, white and colored cast for and against the holding of State Conventions.

Popular Vote for President, by States, in 1864, 1866, and 1868.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

The States of America and Europe. Area; Population of each, according to the latest (November, 1867) and most trustworthy accounts; issue and title of order, and year of its accession; form of government.

PRICE 20 CENTS PER COPY. SEVEN POST-PAY FOR A DOLLAR. Address orders, with cash enclosed, to THE TRIBUNE, New-York.

Law Intelligence, Real Estate, the Money and other Markets on the Second Page of this morning's TRIBUNE; Shipping and Commercial News on the Third, and Literary Notes on the Sixth.

THE LONG AND ANGRY DISCUSSION OF THE ROMAN QUESTION IN THE ITALIAN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES WAS ON SATURDAY BROUGHT TO A CLOSE, AND RESULTED IN A DEFEAT OF THE MINISTRY BY A MAJORITY OF TWO. THIS IS A REMARKABLE SUCCESS OF THE LEFT, AS IN THE RECENT ELECTION OF A PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER THE MINISTERIAL CANDIDATE HAD BEEN ELECTED. MEMBRAS, DURING THE DEBATE, REPEATEDLY STATED THAT ALL PARTIES WERE AGREED THAT ROME MUST BECOME THE CAPITAL OF ITALY, AND THAT THEY DISAGREED ONLY AS TO THE MEANS WHICH OUGHT TO BE APPLIED TO THAT END.

FINANCIAL PROSPECTS.

The aggregate Revenue of the United States is now less than Five Millions of Dollars per week, or \$250,000,000 per annum. The Expenditures are over \$350,000,000 per annum, but are to be reduced, we all hope, at the present session of Congress to Three Hundred Millions per annum. We are thus rushing toward a deficit of One Hundred Millions per annum, which we expect to reduce to Fifty Millions. Whereupon, every body seems intent on appropriating the surplus to the relief of their own peculiar interest.

The Cotton-growers ask a total remission of the tax on their product, which now yields more than Twenty Millions per annum to the Treasury. The Manufacturers want the present tax of five per cent. on their products wholly abolished. The Whisky-makers, more modest, only ask a reduction of the tax on Distilled Spirits from \$2 to 25 cents per gallon, intimating that they would pay the smaller rate instead of evading it, as they do the present tax. We do not believe they would. The Tobacco men want the tax on their product reduced. The Importers want the Tariff cut down to what they call a Revenue standard, though no Revenue Tariff, so called, ever produced half so much revenue as this does. The Shipbuilders want their materials admitted free of duty. The payers of Income-tax (who are about one-fourth of those who should pay it) want that tax abolished. The Philosophers want the duty of 15 per cent. on Philosophical Instruments wholly remitted. And so on to the end of the chapter. "My friend," said an old legislator to his young successor, "the people are fools. Always vote for every appropriation of money that is asked for—that will make you friends, and gain you credit for liberality. Then find some excuse for voting against it." "Every tax-bill. That will make the people believe you anxious to shield them from oppressive taxation. So you will gain friends on all sides." We trust Congress will make haste very slowly in repealing or reducing taxes, until it sees how the Treasury is to be kept solvent. If we were paying off One Hundred Millions per annum of our National Debt, we could renew our loans almost on our own terms. If we are scarcely meeting our interest, it will be difficult to renew our loans as they fall due on any terms. Fearful will be the cost of any approach to Repudiation. Senator Corbett's plan for resuming specie payments, which is substantially the same as that of Mr. Lynch of the House, is that the Government issue its notes, payable in gold, to the amount of 90 per cent of the gold in the Treasury, and thereafter buy up its greenbacks. The notes, he thinks, will bear about the same premium as gold now bears, and hence for

\$90,000,000 in gold notes the Government will buy up \$117,000,000 in greenbacks. But if the gold notes bear the same premium as the gold, they will at once fly up still more tightly the gold now in the Treasury, and yet will not themselves pass into circulation as money. Their issue, therefore, would tighten the money market by withdrawing \$117,000,000 in currency, and would add no currency in its place. Wherein are these gold notes better than the gold itself? And what better use can be made of the gold than to resume specie payments with it at once?

DEATH ON THE RAIL.

The recent horrible massacre by railroad near Buffalo, whereby forty to sixty human beings were roasted alive in a car, should incite the public to insist that railroad travel be rendered safer evermore. Danger there is, and must be, in traveling at the rate of twenty to fifty miles per hour in any vehicle, however impelled; but that danger may be reduced to a minimum, and it must be. We cannot afford to lose forty or fifty precious lives every time a rail breaks, a journal becomes heated, a wheel is fractured, or a switch displaced. We must have more efficient precautions against wholesale slaughter; and now is the time to inaugurate them. Here are a few suggestions toward a general reform:

I. Car-wheels will fly apart; but each car should have so many wheels, so placed, that any one may be shivered without disabling the car or throwing it off the track. This is simply a matter of cost; and economy is really on the same side with safety. Of course, the law must demand a compliance with the dictates of caution and foresight.

II. Our passenger-cars must be made of iron—of cast-iron plates, firmly held by wrought-iron rods. These cost but little more than first-rate wooden cars, will last far longer, and are worth twice as much when worn out. There is economy in the substitution of iron for wooden cars; while the former are almost proof against calamity. They do not burn in case of accident; they do not splinter; they do not crash into oven-wood; their general use would save three-fourths of the lives now lost by railroad casualties. No more wooden passenger-cars should be constructed, and those now in existence should be superseded by iron ones so fast as the latter can be completed.

III. We must stop pointing all manner of public conveyances—more especially steamboats—with mixtures whereof one ingredient is a highly inflammable oil. Our grand and gay river and sound steamers are fire-ships, ready to flash into death-dealing conflagration. Now, we do not insist that wooden partitions, floors, ceilings, &c., may be rendered absolutely incombustible by any known pigment, but we do insist that there are paints which would greatly retard the spread of fire, where they did not completely prevent it. Now, cabins are so painted and upholstered that a fire, once kindled, runs the length of a steamship or boat about as fast as a squirrel could. If all the surfaces were painted or japanned with the least combustible combination of substances already known to science, it would be morally impossible to burn a ship, boat, or car filled with passengers. They could, at least, confine the fire within narrow limits until they could secure the means of extinguishing it.

IV. A passenger train should always be provided with brakes that could be instantly and firmly applied by a motion of the engineer's foot. Brakemen cannot be relied on. They have various and conflicting duties; they are drawn by storm and cold to seek shelter and warmth within the car; and the signals of the engineer to apply brakes are often defective or unheard. The engineer, keeping a good look-out, is naturally first to perceive danger; and he should be enabled to apply every brake on the instant. The seconds (at least) required to convey his signals to the brakemen, and enable them to comprehend and obey those signals, often involve the wreck of the train and the loss of many lives.

V. New safeguards against flying the track on embankments, bridges, &c., must be provided. Two squared sticks of timber, eighteen to thirty inches in diameter, laid upon each side of the track at sharp points, and firmly secured and bolted there, would preclude scores of frightful disasters. A thick concrete wall of rough stones laid in lime and cement, rising on each side of the track to a height of two or three feet above the rails, would be still better. Such timber or walls might add \$1,000 per mile to the average cost of railroads, though, in prairie and other level regions, it could hardly be half that. But, even were it to cost \$2,000 per mile, this protection to human life must be had.

—These suggestions are, of course, not exhaustive. They may need to be amended in some points and supplemented in others. But, though suggestions merely, they will indicate to railroad and steamboat men duties that can no longer be neglected. Reform must be had; comparative security must be attained; if our public conveyances are not to be deserted by the more timid and apprehensive half of those by whom they have hitherto been patronized. We exhort our railroad managers to act promptly and decisively.

NATURALIZATION AND ALLEGIANCE.

In the recent debate in the Senate on the rights of naturalized citizens, it is asserted by Senators Reverdy Johnson, Sumner, and Cass that England claims that her citizens cannot absolve themselves from their allegiance to Great Britain. We do not regard this as a candid statement of the position taken by England, and by every European Government except France, on this question. No European Government has claimed the right to interfere with the exclusive allegiance of our naturalized citizens to the United States so long as they remain in the United States. By the war of 1812 we sought to make the effect of naturalization coextensive with our flag, whether on sea or land. But during none of our wars has a foreign power claimed either the obligation or the right to shield a naturalized citizen from any of the liabilities incurred by him as a citizen of the United States. They have respected our naturalization laws as the valid local law within the domain for which they were enacted. Had they not done so, they might have utterly demoralized our armies, and our whole military system, by demanding the exemption of our naturalized citizens from the draft.

Our law for the naturalization of foreigners, and the law of any foreign State against the expatriation of its citizens, are laws of the same local character—valid within the domain or under the flag of the power which enacted them, and not beyond it. We can no more interfere with the sovereignty of an independent European power to restrain it from enacting that every person born on its soil shall be under perpetual allegiance to its government, than the European power can restrain us from enacting the same on which the same citizen may absolve himself from all obligations to that power; both rights harmonize, provided

promises of the Government, to pay off the forced loan known as a "legal-tender currency," the depreciation in which is a principal cause of the premium on gold.

THE HON. J. M. ASHLEY ON IMPROVEMENT.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Permit me to correct a singular misapprehension, if not a systematic and deliberately planned misrepresentation, of my impeachment record.

It is alleged by the newspaper press very erroneously that one of the specifications accompanying my impeachment resolution charges Mr. Johnson with complicity in the assassination of Mr. Lincoln.

Nothing can be further from the truth. The following is a copy of the specifications and resolution:

The Clerk read the proposition of Mr. Ashley of Ohio which is as follows: "Resolved, That the Hon. John M. Ashley, of Ohio, do impeach Andrew Johnson, Vice-President and acting President of the United States, of high crimes and misdemeanors."

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ACADEMY OF MUSIC—This Evening—"Deborah."

Barth's Opera House—This Evening—"Our Mutual Friend."

Barnum's American Museum—Day and Evening—"The Grand Exhibition of the Great Republic."

Broadway Theatre—This Evening—"Lady Kelly's Secret."

Brunswick Hall, Union Square—This Evening—"The Grand Exhibition of the Great Republic."

Exhibition of Ball's Statue of Forrest as a Soldier—Day and Evening, at No. 412 Broadway.

Fifth Avenue Theatre—This Evening—"The Grand Exhibition of the Great Republic."

French Theatre—This Evening—"The Grand Exhibition of the Great Republic."

Haymarket—This Evening—"Grand Concert, Miss Lucy Cook, Mr. Leopold Meyer."

New-York Circus, Fortenthall-st.—This Afternoon and Evening—"The Grand Exhibition of the Great Republic."

New-York Theatre—This Evening—"Under the Dogskin."

Niblo's Garden—This Evening—"The Black Cross."

Operatic Theatre—This Evening—"A Midsummer Night's Dream."

Wallack's—This Evening—"The Double Gallant."

W. W. Wallack, R. L. Davenport.

Business Notices.

STARR & MARCUS, No. 22 Broadway.

At Retail—Sole Silver Forks, Spoons and Knives, the quality of which is stamped and guaranteed by U. S. Mint Assay, to be worthy of the highest credit.

WEDDING AND HOLIDAY PRESENTS.