Amusements, &c.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—This Afternoon.—La Grange-Brignoli Italian Opera—"La Traviata."

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BROADWAY THEATER—This Afternoon and Evening.—"Little Nell." Lotta.

BUNYAN HALL, Union Square—This Afternoon and Evening.—"The Pilgrim."

EXHIBITION OF THOMAS BALL'S STATUE OF EDWIN FORREST as "CORIOLANUS."—Day and Evening.—813 Broadway.

FRENCH THEATER.—This Evening.—"Les Beaux Messieurs De Bois-Doré," and "Les Chansons Populaires de la France."

IRVING HALL—This Evening.—"The Shamrock. A Three-Leaved Entertainment." To-morrow Evening—Farewell Concert of Signor Antonio Farini, assisted by Mr. De Cordova.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN—Day and Evening.—The Paris Pictures.

NEW-YORK CIRCUS, Fourteenth-st.—This Afternoon and Evening.—Feats of Equestrianism and Acrobatic Skill. Miss Lucille Watson, Pfau.

NEW-YORK THEATER—This Evening—Streets of New-York—Mr. John K. Mortimer, Miss Irene Worrell.

NIBLO'S GARDEN—This Afternoon and Evening.—"The White Fawn." Parisienne Ballet Troupe.

OLYMPIC THEATER—This Afternoon and Evening.—"The Little Barefoot." Miss Maggie Mitchell.

STEINWAY HALL—This Evening.—Theo. Thomas's Symphony Soirée. Carl Rosa. Orchestra of Eighty. To-morrow Evening—Mr. Harrison's Sunday Concert. Angiolini Guinal, Leopold De Meyer, Carl Rosa.

WALLACK'S—This Evening.—"Pauline." Lester Wallack.

MEETINGS, LECTURES, &c.

MEETINGS TO-NIGHT AND TO-MORROW.—Sixty-second Anniversary of the Columbia College Peithologian Society, at the Academy of Music, this evening....Father Mathew T. A. M. B. Society, Weekly Public Exercises, to-morrow evening, at No. 112 East Thirteenth-st. At the New M. E. Chapel, No. 200 East Eleventh-st., to-morrow, day and evening....Col. Jas. Fairman, before Cooper Union, for the Advancement of Science and Art, this evening.

LECTURE.—Mr. Chas. Graham, on Temperance, to-morrow evening, before Father Mathew T. S., in the Hall at the junction of Broadway, Seventh-ave., and Forty-seventh st.

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New-York Daily Tribune.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1868.

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Winter Meeting of the New-York State Agricultural Society; a Letter from Our Special Correspondent in Albany; the Alabama Election, Law Intelligence, Foundations, a Medal for Soldiers, and the customary Money Article, are on the second page this morning; Markets and Shipping News on the third; New Music on the sixth, and Real Estate on the seventh.

SENATE, Feb. 14.—On motion, further petitions relative to the legalization of gold contracts were tabled.

The bill to authorize the temporary supplying of vacancies in the Executive Department was taken up, and, after being amended so as to limit the incumbency of such vacancies to ten days, was passed.

Mr. Wilson reported a bill for reducing the expenses of the War Department, and offered a resolution of inquiry concerning the new military department established by the President.

Mr. Frelinghuysen introduced a bill providing that any person having control of public money or property, who shall lend or otherwise make use of the same, shall be deemed guilty of felony.

Mr. Buckalew took the floor in the debate on the admission of the Maryland Senator elect, and was followed by Messrs. Howard, Morton, and others. Mr. Johnson announced that he would close the debate on Monday.

HOUSE, Feb. 14.—The correspondence between Gen. Grant and Gen. Hancock, relative to the removal of the New-Orleans Councilmen, was called for.

Mr. Logan introduced a bill providing for the taxation of United States bonds.

A bill to prohibit peonage and Indian slavery in New-Mexico was introduced.

A bill to enable Charles Grafton Page, the inventor of certain induction apparatus and circuit-breakers, known as the "induction coil," to apply for letters patent, was passed.

An animated discussion arose over a bill, reported by Mr. Bromwell, in favor of the re-extension of the patent for a machine for cutting screws, to the widow and heirs of Thomas W. Harvey. It was finally defeated by the vote of 57 to 71.

A bill for the relief of the Navajo Indians, appropriating $150,000 for their removal to a reservation, was passed.

The Kentucky election case was taken up, and the floor being given to Mr. Smith, the contestant for Mr. Brown's seat, the House adjourned.

We again hear of the mysterious mission of Italian war steamers to some place in South America. No one can even guess the object of this apparently causeless expedition, and the Ministry refuse all information concerning it.

The testimony of Mr. Rollins, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, before the Judiciary Committee, and his letters to the Secretary of the Treasury, which our Washington correspondent furnishes this morning, place the responsibility for the present inefficiency of the revenue system so clearly upon the President that, when plans for the relief of the national finances are under debate, it will be well to recur to it for a few valuable hints. The removals and appointments in the Internal Revenue service during the year 1866 were made by the President alone, without consultation with the Commissioner; and indeed Mr. Rollins soon ceased to make any recommendations to office, knowing that they would not be regarded. He believed that the changes made by Mr. Johnson had cost the country many millions of dollars. Many of the most competent and vigilant officers were removed for purely political reasons, and corrupt or inexperienced men appointed in their places, and "as a rule, in those States "where removals were largely made, the best "men were removed." On the other hand, officials whose removal Mr. Rollins had for good reasons requested, and against whom he had filed formal charges, are still retained. In view of the damaging character of his testimony, it is not at all surprising that the Commissioner himself should have been turned out.

THE ADMISSION OF ALABAMA.

The main objection to Mr. Sherman's bill is, that it is said to disfranchise a large portion of the people of Alabama. *The National Intelligencer*, after making the cheerful observation that the Editor of THE TRIBUNE has reached a position lower than that attained by any gentleman who professes honor and integrity in politics, argues that we are committing an enormity as great as that of the Lecompton Constitution in Kansas. That Constitution was the work of a minority, and it is as criminal for us to insist upon the admission of Alabama upon the terms of Mr. Senator Sherman's bill as it was for Mr. Buchanan to insist upon the admission of Kansas under the Lecompton Constitution.

What was the case with Lecompton? A number of ambitious politicians contrived a Constitution, and adopted it by shameless frauds. Towns without a hundred inhabitants returned a thousand votes, and the names of the voters seemed to be taken at random from the Congress Directory or the Dictionary of Biography. The Free-soilers were either not allowed to vote, or were outvoted by fraud. In a free election there would have been no hope for the Lecompton Constitution. All that Free-State men asked was a fair election. How is it in Alabama? A certain number of the inhabitants are disfranchised for rebellion. That is a penalty which they invited. It is not the punishment usually inflicted. Cromwell had one way, and William had another. A general massacre, the scaffold, the confiscation of estates, were the penalties of rebellion in other days, and history honors the men who imposed them as wise, humane and forbearing. In Alabama we disfranchise a small portion of the people, and admit the others to citizenship. Not an acre of land is taken, not a life is forfeit, and the penalty is temporary and sentimental. The people are requested to form a Constitution. The Constitution is formed. The time comes to vote upon its adoption, and a large class remain away from the polls. It will have no part in the government. It will not vote, nor permit the negro to vote. Instantly the fiat goes forth that to vote for the new Constitution is to accept infamy. The negro who works for his daily bread is told that he will be dismissed if he is seen near the polls. A merchant is warned that he must expect no more customers; a tradesman can have no more work. One newspaper in Montgomery promises to print a list of those who voted for the Constitution, in order that they may be held up to execration. The voters are generally the struggling and dependent class. To them a loaf of bread is a very serious consideration. How would it be in New-York if every merchant and manufacturer were to announce that a visit to the polls would be followed by a dismissal from work, or a withdrawal of custom? It is hard enough to have a decent representation of voters as it is, with every inducement to vote. We can imagine how it would be if the franchise were to be followed by a social and business penalty.

Instead of aiding to reconstruct the Union, we find this large, dominant, aggressive class resolved to keep out of the Union. Well, that is a small matter, comparatively speaking. If they insist upon shivering in the cold, we have nothing to say but heap high the coals and make the fire brighter for those around the hearth. But they claim the right, and, unfortunately, they have the power, owing to the generosity of Congress, to keep out a large number of loyal men. Here is a new question. These loyal men come to Congress and say: "Gentlemen, we have stood by the Union through "good report and evil report. We have fought "and bled for it. We are free from the sin of "rebellion. If we have sinned, we bring "you fruits meet for repentance. We have answered every condition of loyalty. We have "answered every requirement of the Reconstruction act. We have formed a government. We "have made a constitution, which all men, even "our enemies, concede to be prudent and liberal. "We demand a civil government. We insist "that we should have the Federal protection "and all the rights of the State. We are the "loyal men of Alabama, and we demand recognition. The Rebels around us have had as "much of an opportunity to come into the "Union. They insist upon remaining out and "upon keeping us out. They are an impediment to reconstruction, and we demand that "the impediment be removed." What reply can be made to this? These loyal men have the argument. We made a mistake, and they suffer from it. Let us remedy it by opening the door and bidding them in.

"Oh!" but we are told, "you disfranchise "the *people* of Alabama." "The *people* of "Alabama," says *The Intelligencer*, "have taken "a justifiable course to save themselves from "the anticipated wrongs, hurts, and horrors of "negro ascendancy." "The *people* of Ala-"bama," cries *The Times*, "have refused to "reconstruct the State. Let the State remain "unreconstructed and adjourn the question." Let us see one moment who are "the people" of Alabama. Have men a right to be considered people who insist upon anarchy? Are we any more bound to postpone reconstruction to gratify the people of Alabama than we were to postpone the war for their gratification? The people of Alabama rebelled—they raised large armies—they made war—they contended for years for the privilege of destroying the Union—they were defeated. They were Rebels, then, for assailing the national authority. What are they now? If we keep Alabama out of the Union, we only irritate a long-festering wound, and adjourn reconstruction. We make necessary standing armies and armed occupation. This is imposed upon us in defiance of national authority, and in despite of the protests of the loyal men. In the large and civil sense of the word, these men are not "people," and they have no right to be so considered. They are no more "people" than the inmates of Sing Sing, or the convicts of Blackwell's Island, or a body of foreigners passing through our States. They are men who have committed a crime, and who are released from its consequences only by promising obedience to the laws, and an acquiescence in all the duties of citizenship. But to say that they have the right to block the wheels of Government, and delay reconstruction and impose more burdens upon us, to gratify their malignity, is as mad as it would be for the ticket-of-leave men in England to enter Parliament and claim to make laws for the nation.

But the fault is ours, we are told! Why did we give them the power to block the wheels of Government? We grant that. We made a mistake. We were generous to these people for their own sakes. They reply by an effort to inflict anarchy upon Alabama. Such mistakes are frequently made, but in this case we accept the rebuke, and shall see that it does not occur again. We can very well postpone our generosity until these people show a disposition to accept it. We have no notion of crowding our courtesies where they are despised. We hoped to have them in the Union, and not, in a few years to see every American, Rebel or not, in the full exercise of citizenship. We can afford to wait if they can. We have opened the door. They stand in the way and keep out those who desire to enter. *Our first duty is to admit the loyal people.* That done, we can rest easy. When the Rebels finally desire to come in they may knock at the door, and wait until we are ready to open it.

PRESIDENTIAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

Several of our neighboring cotemporaries are much exercised by the question whether the President of the United States should be a learned gentleman. For our own part, we confess that we should think it at least convenient for a President to know how to spell, and it would appear also to be somewhat desirable that he should know how to speak and write the English language with correctness and propriety. The extraordinary literary and rhetorical performances of Mr. Johnson have sufficiently shown how dangerous a little learning is; and as he is probably the most ignorant man who has ever occupied the White House, he furnishes reasoners upon either side with a handy illustration—which appears to be about all the good he is doing or is likely to do. Yet it is a curious fact, that the muddle of Mr. Johnson's speeches reminds us of the muddle of Oliver Cromwell's, the only difference being that the Protector had something to say, and experienced a difficulty in saying it, while our poor President has nothing to say, and finds it utterly impossible to conceal the melancholy fact. Our own opinion is that no amount of erudition will make good an incapacity for public affairs, while a man may be a very useful public servant with but limited literary and scientific acquirements—just as a merchant who does not know how to spell "dollars" may make five hundred thousand of them by a single operation in tobacco. The best educated President we have ever had was John Adams, who was a walking library of rare and curious learning, and at the same time the least successful of our public men—partly because he could not control his temper, and partly because he would rather have died than conceal an opinion, however obnoxious to the multitude. But Washington is by far our foremost example of fine public ability, without any extraordinary scholastic cultivation. He knew himself thoroughly, and he knew also what an enlightened nation expected of its President; and he never hesitated to avail himself of the services of others whenever a document which was to be made public was under his hand. At a later period, it is well known that Gen. Jackson frequently employed the critical skill of his more accomplished friends. It has been stated that even Mr. Webster, who was master of an admirable English style, submitted the celebrated Hulsemann letter to the judgment of Mr. Everett. Public characters in all ages have never disclaimed this kind of assistance; and when the capacity of Gen. Grant is under discussion, the main question, we suppose, is whether he has good sense enough to form an accurate judgment, and sufficient distrust of himself to seek for necessary assistance. Gen. Grant may not be an accomplished scholar in any department of human learning; but freedom from the vanity, the passion and the obstinacy of Mr. Johnson may compensate for deficiencies far greater than we suppose Gen. Grant's to be. And it may be observed generally, that the habit into which the commander of an army naturally falls, of relying to a certain extent upon the judgment and abilities of others, induces a quick apprehension of the character of subordinates, and a ready tact in the selection of fit and trustworthy instruments. In this respect, the army is a good school even for the duties and demands of a civil position. Cæsar, Frederick and Napoleon were great statesmen as well as great generals; and neither of them could boast of that limitless fund of erudition which illuminates the columns of several New-York newspapers.

Of Gen. Grant's intellectual accomplishments we know little, but they can hardly be less than those of Gen. McClellan, for both these soldiers received precisely the same academical training; and yet those who were quite ready to make the latter President are now snarling at the former because he has not "the attainments of a scholar." What may be the precise meaning of this rather loose phraseology, we cannot pretend to determine. The General may or may not be President—his chances of the place are not at present under discussion—but if he should be, how much Greek, Latin, and Hebrew, how much historical lore, would he require effectively to manage a recalcitrant Territory, or a State still practically in a rebellious position? Would it be impossible for him to watch over the slow and anomalous process of Reconstruction, without a plenary knowledge of the History of the Middle Ages? According to certain newspapers, Mr. Jared Sparks was the best person of his time for the Presidency, because he was best acquainted with the details of our Colonial and Revolutionary history. Several of our learned cotemporaries would seem to be of the opinion that nobody should be constitutionally eligible to the office except Masters of Arts and Doctors of the Law of Laws! Some of them may even favor a preliminary examination of the candidates in all the branches of polite learning. The difficult question is, who shall be the examiner? The majority of our citizens may not have the necessary wisdom, and the editor of *The World* may not have the requisite leisure!

Perhaps the events of these latter days have made us, like other Americans, less fastidious than we should be. It would suit us exactly if the President of the United States could be at once a statesman, a scholar, and a gentleman. In a period of famine, however, the coarsest food seems delicate; and after our experience of the extremely disagreeable individual now at the head of the Government, we could acquiesce (if we could do no better) in the accession to the Presidency of any man with a reasonably good head and a tolerably good heart.

THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE.

The New-York Times of yesterday makes the following misrepresentations:

"Hitherto our theory of republican government has assumed that the will of the people was supreme when expressed according to the forms prescribed and exercised within the limitations of the Constitution. The adherence of successive Administrations to this theory in the practical working of the Government has saved us from the unbridled tyranny of absolute, unchecked, and unregulated democratic rule which has always been regarded by political philosophers as the great danger which republican institutions must always encounter.

"The action of Congress since the war has tended to reverse this rule of conduct and to make the public will of the hour, as represented in Congress, absolute and supreme—throwing off all the checks and safeguards of the Constitution, and making Congress substantially sovereign in the Government. The conduct of the persons engaged in this movement is to convert our Government from what the Constitution makes it—a regulated republic acting under and through constitutional forms—into an absolute democracy, in which constitutions are set aside at discretion, and everything is made to yield to the will of the people as represented in Congress.

"Whether the election will decide this important question or not, will depend mainly on the manner in which the issue may be presented by the two parties."

If *The Times* were not always ready to deny to-day the opinions it uttered yesterday, there would be some hope that the above paragraph was designed to announce its intention to support the Democratic Presidential candidate at the next election. But *The Times* has neither the stamina to hear a fatal charge made against the party it pretends to support without assenting to it as a reed yields to the foot of a hippopotamus, nor has it the integrity to support the candidates and platform of the Democratic party, whose principles and men it indorses in such paragraphs as the above. The above extract contains all the misconceptions and all the ignorance that are necessary to induce a man to vote for George H. Pendleton for President. But *The Times*, after bushwhacking and picket-firing at the Republican principles and candidates until it finds it cannot resist their current, will at last join the ranks of those whom it has misrepresented, and claim a share in the victory it did its utmost to prevent. Most of the acts passed by Congress since the war, the Editor of *The Times* opposed in speeches and through his paper, voted for on their passage, and has maligned and abused as unconstitutional and wicked ever since. His vote in such cases was right, but his previous and subsequent opposition to his vote is ground of complaint. Though he may have believed them otherwise, the acts for which he so voted were, in spite of his former arguments and present admission to the contrary, perfectly constitutional. He may have suffered under the guilty intent to commit a wrong, but he was guilty only in intent. The will of the people may seem to Mr. Raymond to have been expressed according to the forms and within the limits of the Constitution, in the years prior to the war—in the Fugitive Slave law, in the war on Mexico, in the Dred Scott decision, in the crimes against Kansas, and in the other unconstitutional usurpations of Democratic Congresses, Presidents, and Supreme Courts. But we assure him that if he so believe, his writings, vote, and action were far better than his judgment. In opposing all these things as unconstitutional he seemed as sensible as if he had believed them so. On the other hand, Congress has performed no unconstitutional act in its policy of Reconstruction. The forms through which the will of the people has been expressed have been as constitutional as they ever were. Mr. Raymond's graceful concession of a point so important is of no more value than would be his quit-claim deed for the City Hall.

The bill introduced by the English Government into Parliament for the suspension of habeas corpus in Ireland shows how serious the Fenian movement continues to be, even in the eyes of the English. There is, of course, no chance whatever at present of the success of the Fenians, and on that account the frequent transgressions of the English laws are unwise and useless moves. But England, which has at no time been anything else, with regard to Ireland, than its oppressor, has no right to charge the leaders of the National party with the violation of an oath of allegiance which they have never taken, and which they abhor. All the legislation which is based on such revolting misrepresentation of the true state of affairs will only tend to widen the breach between England and Ireland, and to secure to the latter the sympathy of the civilized world.

The Mexican correspondence which we publish this morning foreshadows what has just been telegraphically announced, the resignation of Gens. Diaz and Escobedo. Both, and especially the former, have rendered signal services to their country, and their open rupture with the President will cause profound regret to all who hope for the restoration of peace and order in unhappy Mexico. From the long-tried patriotism of Diaz and Escobedo it is still to be hoped that their opposition to Juarez will be satisfied with resignation, and that it will not mislead them to a *pronunciamento*. Even now their country is troubled by insurrectionary outbreaks in a number of States. A serious civil war, headed by some of the leading Generals, would be a national calamity, which would plunge Mexico into misery and anarchy, and put off the regeneration of the country into a remote future.

THE OPERA.

The Winter, so far, has been a trying one for musical entertainments of all kinds, and few of the theaters have fared as well as has been their wont. No enterprise, however, during the early part of the season, was so unfortunate as the opera. While Maretzek's company kept possession of the Academy of Music, disasters were heaped upon disasters. In vain one singer after another was brought out—many of them good, nearly all of them better than we are used to; in vain the great buffo, Ronconi, was prodigal of his fun; in vain a bright little American girl, by her successes on the lyric stage, added to our growing reputation as a musical people, or the best baritone we have heard since Gassier, and one of the best bassos we have had since Susini's prime, roared their manly melodies. The public was coldly indifferent. New operas were produced, and well produced too, before half-filled houses; and the manager at last, with an empty treasury, went away to more hospitable cities. Music for a while in New-York was almost one of the lost arts. At length came the reaction, and, as usually happens in such cases, the excitement of the revival was fully proportional with the apathy of the past period. The enterprise of Pike and Strakosch on the west side of the town, the novelty of the gorgeous house, the return of old favorites, the awakening of pleasant old associations, combined to render the last operatic season more successful in a pecuniary sense than many of its best wishers durst hope it would be; and, now that Strakosch, and La Grange, and Brignoli, and Phillips have gone over to the old opera-house in Irving-place, good fortune still clings to them. It is characteristic of American haste and impulsiveness that, in the first flush of this new prosperity, another opera company should seek to divide the honors and profits of the musical renaissance. On Monday night Pike's Opera House will reopen; and while La Grange and Brignoli are playing "The Masked Ball" in Fourteenth-st., Miss Hauck and Ronconi will frolic in Petrella's "Carnival" on the Eighth-ave. The rivalry between the two houses, whatever effect it may have upon their respective treasuries, can hardly fail to be of profit to the public. On the one hand we shall have excellent artists whom it has long been our delight to honor, and with whom our pleasantest recollections of some of the most popular operas are inseparably associated. On the other there is a strong and admirable company, made up of many of the best members of Maretzek's former troupe, such as Miss Hauck, and Bellini, and Antonucci, together with Madame Gazzaniga, and the German artists under the direction of Grover. Among these last are the sweet-voiced tenor, Habelman, and the great basso, Joseph Hermanns. In ordinary circumstances such rivalry as this would probably entail ruin upon both managers. But we should not be surprised if both did well. The excitement of the fresh interest in operatic performances will do much for them; and there is this thing also to be considered: Mr. Strakosch, by his three weeks' season at Pike's, developed an entirely new musical public, which had never frequented the opera before. The crowds which surrounded his ticket-office were indigenous. It had never been their habit to go often to the old opera-house; it was too far away for them; but when the entertainment was brought to their doors, they rushed to see it, and very brilliant and very appreciative audiences they proved. When Mr. Strakosch removed to Irving-place they did not follow him; but he found awaiting him there the old Academy audiences, athirst for melody after their long abstinence. So one side of the town runs after La Grange and Brignoli, while the other awaits Maretzek and Grover. Why, with two sets of patrons, should we not have two companies of singers? The experiment, which at first sight would appear to forbode disaster, may, after all, prove a substantial benefit to the public.

Mr. Delmar's statistical tables, published December 21, are wholly devoted to facts bearing on the foreign trade of the United States and other nations. Not a single fact or figure is given relative to any branch of industry carried on in the United States. Our great agricultural, manufacturing, mining, transportation, river, lake and canal systems, our labor interests—our home capital in whatsoever branches employed—afford a vast field for investigation, and the statistics in regard to them would be of inestimable value. The current politics of the country cannot be comprehended without them. The history of our country cannot be truly written because of the want of them. Yet Mr. Delmar is blind to everything but what takes place on the ocean. He is a salt-water bird, and if he were appointed Director of a Bureau of Statistics for the five great oceans of the globe he would be in his right place. As it is, the statistics he publishes are rehashes of matter furnished to his hand by our Custom-Houses, and are of so little consequence to the American people, and prove such an utter incapacity to appreciate the opportunities and duties of his position, that we are glad to see that, in the appropriation bills now passing through Congress, no appropriation is made for the Bureau of Statistics. If the President cannot be induced to appoint a more competent Superintendent for the Bureau it had better be abolished.

John C. Breckinridge, when last heard from, was wandering about Syria in the character of a martyr, and telling everybody he saw that no country except this could ever be his home, but he would not return to it "until he could "do so in personal safety." John had better come home at once, and stop making a wandering Jew of himself. He runs no danger in the United States except of being forgotten.

Judge Barnard deserves the thanks of the people for his energetic dealing with the proprietors of unsafe tenement houses. Eleven of these buildings were presented to the Supreme Court for being unprovided with means of escape in case of fire, and the Judge ordered the Inspector of Buildings to make the necessary improvements and let the cost be a lien upon the property. Good. Let the theaters be looked after next.

Miss Kate Field, a well-known contributor to periodical literature, is the author of a little book about to be published by Loring of Boston, entitled "Pen Photographs of Dickens's Readings." The facile pen of this brilliant young writer must have found congenial occupation in this work, and it will no doubt be read with interest.

EUROPE.

FRANCE.

REPORTED CHANGE IN THE MINISTRY.

BY ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

LONDON, Feb. 14.—Rumors are current in Paris of a contemplated change in the Ministry, in deference to the wishes and sentiments of the Liberal party.

THE PRESS BILL.

PARIS, Feb. 14—Evening.—In the Corps Legislatif to-day an amendment, which was proposed by M. Berryer, to the bill for the regulation of the press, introducing certain reforms in the administration of the Court of Justice, was defeated after a stormy debate.

ORGANIZATION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD.

The Government is rapidly pushing forward the organization of the National Guard in all the Departments of France, in accordance with the provisions of the Army bill, recently adopted by the Senate and Legislative body.

GREAT BRITAIN.

A BILL TO SUSPEND THE WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS.

LONDON, Feb. 14—Midnight.—In the House of Commons this evening Earl Mayo, the Chief Secretary for Ireland, asked leave to bring in a bill to suspend the operation of the writ of Habeas Corpus for a short period from the 1st of March. He said the Fenian leaders had shown an utter disregard of their oaths of allegiance to the Crown; and stated that out of 268 Fenians who had been arrested, 95 were Americans. He concluded by saying that although the Government had succeeded in repressing the rebels, still an extension of its powers was necessary to enable it to complete the work. Leave to bring in the bill was granted. Lord Stanley laid before the House additional papers on the subject of the Alabama claims. These documents have already been published.

CHANGE OF MAIL STATION.

It has been decided that the British West India mail steamers shall cease calling at the island of St. Thomas; but some other place, probably Jamaica, will be chosen as a mail station for the steamers.

IRELAND.

LENNON SENTENCED TO FIFTEEN YEARS IMPRISONMENT.

LONDON, Feb. 14.—Lennon, who was convicted of treason and felony, but not of murder, was yesterday brought before the Court and sentenced to imprisonment at hard labor for the term of fifteen years. After receiving his sentence, Lennon made a bitter and defiant speech, in which he predicted that before he had served out the term of his imprisonment the British monarchy would be overthrown. He gloried in the act for which he was now condemned, and hoped an opportunity would be given him to repeat it.

ITALY.

THE SOUTH AMERICAN EXPEDITION.

FLORENCE, Feb. 14.—Menabrea, the Prime Minister, has told the Parliament, in reply to a question, that the Government had dispatched seven ships to the River La Plata, South America, but gave no information as to the object of the expedition.

A STATE DINNER TO ADMIRAL FARRAGUT.

Yesterday evening Admiral Farragut, having recovered from his slight illness, attended a State dinner at the Royal Palace, to which he was invited by King Victor Emmanuel. The Admiral was received with marked courtesy by the King, and was treated with great honor and consideration by the distinguished company assembled. Among those present on the occasion were the members of the Italian Cabinet, the high officials of the Royal Court and of the City of Florence, and the chief officers of the army and navy. The Italian journals contain frequent reports in regard to the visit of Admiral Farragut, and seem to be persuaded that he is here on some mission of great importance. The last rumor which has appeared is to the effect that his object is to obtain a naval station in the Mediterranean for the United States, and that he has been instructed to apply to the Italian Government for the use of the port of Spezzia for that purpose.

ABYSSINIA.

THE EGYPTIAN AUXILIARY TROOPS.

LONDON, Feb. 14.—The following is the latest news which has been received from Annesley Bay: The auxiliary corps of Egyptians remain in Abyssinia, and are moving forward as the expedition advances, notwithstanding the request made by the English Government to the Pasha of Egypt that they be withdrawn. Reports from the interior state that King Theodorus and the British captives were at Magdala.

MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

QUEENSTOWN, Feb. 14.—The steamship Russia, Capt. Cook, has arrived here en route to Liverpool.

THE WEST INDIES.

CUBA.

FILIBUSTERING BONDS—THE SIGLO—SEIZURE OF A SPANISH VESSEL.

From Our Special Correspondent.

HAVANA, Feb. 8, 1868.

A former director of the *Prensa* newspaper went on from here, a week or two ago, to New-York for the purpose of disposing of some filibustering bonds. It is said that they are to be sold for Mexican account, but, as to this, nothing is positively known. The New-Yorkers are too sharp, as one would suppose, to be caught engaged in such money-losing transactions.

Rumor has been talking for two or three weeks about the suspension of the *Siglo*. The truth is, the directors had decided to stop, but, on reflection, they have determined to go ahead. The principal reason urged for discontinuing the paper was that the object for which it was started—the bettering of the political condition of the Cubans—had failed. Commissioners have been elected, at different times, and sent to Spain to represent the interests of the island. It would seem that the Cuban party in these delegations has always, in some way or other, been humbugged over there, and particularly the portion of the representation which went over in the past year. They had some matters changed, but, as it has been proved, while heavier burdens have been laid on the shoulders of the Spaniards, none the lighter have been placed on the Cubans.

However, after much consultation, the *Siglo* will, for the present, fight away, and, in the end, probably, coalesce with the *Occidente*, where the combined talent of the two dailies will work, whether successfully or not, of that great watchword of all parties—Reform.

A Spanish vessel styled the *Frederico* was seized the other day on suspicion of being about to sail, with powder on board, to the Mexican coast. The Captain-General gave the order. The matter has been examined into, and the authorities are satisfied that, though the vessel has actually in her hold the article charged, she is not destined to the shores of the neighboring Republic, but is to sail for Hamburg. The powder appears to have been here some two years or more, and is a little old and somewhat damaged. It is, however, somewhat strange that this vessel, so loaded, is going to Europe, when there are other places so much nearer to us, and where reasonably it might be supposed such a cargo would find a better sale.

HAYTI.

PROGRESS OF THE INSURRECTION.

HAVANA, Feb. 14.—At last accounts from Hayti the headquarters of President Salnave were on Grand Riviere. One of his lieutenants on the frontier was defeated in an engagement and had committed suicide. Alexis Nord was mistrusted, and had been deprived of rank and honors.

MARTINIQUE.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL—A NEW CABLE.

HAVANA, Feb. 14.—The Council of Martinique has voted 30,000 francs to aid the construction of a telegraph cable. The same body has also voted to increase the duties and establish free suffrage; but the storing monopoly is maintained.

Instead of "Rigoletto," as advertised, "Figaro" was sung at the Academy of Music last evening.

THE GREAT FIRE IN WILMINGTON—FIREMEN KILLED.

A number of firemen were buried under a wall which fell in the great fire in Wilmington, N. C., yesterday morning. One white and four negro firemen have, thus far, been taken from the ruins, and it is thought all must die. Many men are at work on the ruins to recover other bodies. It is feared that ten or twelve were crushed. The fire was confined to the buildings mentioned in the dispatch which THE TRIBUNE published yesterday. The loss is about $125,000.

Dr. Mulholland's apartments on the north-west corner of Atlantic and Hicks-sts., Brooklyn, and the building adjoining, were on fire at about 5 o'clock yesterday morning. Mr. E. R. Jones, jeweler, lost about $300; Mr. H. H. Dickinson, druggist, $1,500; Dr. Mulholland $200, and Dr. Smith, $100; all insured. The buildings, which belonged to the Jacob Frost estate, and were insured, may be repaired for $500.