

Amusements, &c.

A. M. F. ZION CHURCH, corner of West Tenth and Broadway... ACADEMY OF MUSIC... APOLLO HALL... BROADWAY THEATRE... BROOKLYN ATHLETIC... CENTRAL PARK GARDENS... MINER & BARRETT'S ART GALLERY... NEW-YORK CIRCUS... NEW-YORK THEATRE... OLYMPIC THEATRE... THE OPERA HOUSE... SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS... SNEDECOR'S ART GALLERY... ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH... THEATRE FRANCAIS... UNION LEAGUE THEATRE... WALLACK'S THEATRE... WOODS' METROPOLITAN THEATRE...

Business Notices.

STEINWAY & SONS... RADWAY'S READY RELIEF... MUSICAL BOXES... HOW TO SAVE COAL... CHEESE & SONS... PALMER'S ARM AND LEG... WIGS, TOYS, AND ORNAMENTAL HAIR... BATHROOM'S HAIR DYE... CHEESE & SONS... UNIVERSAL EXPOSITION, PARIS, 1867... PALMER'S ARM AND LEG... WIGS, TOYS, AND ORNAMENTAL HAIR... BATHROOM'S HAIR DYE... CHEESE & SONS... UNIVERSAL EXPOSITION, PARIS, 1867...

How to Save Coal... The Patent Steam Heating System... CHEESE & SONS... PALMER'S ARM AND LEG... WIGS, TOYS, AND ORNAMENTAL HAIR... BATHROOM'S HAIR DYE... CHEESE & SONS... UNIVERSAL EXPOSITION, PARIS, 1867...

NEW-YORK DAILY TRIBUNE. MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1868. TERMS OF THE TRIBUNE. DAILY TRIBUNE, Mail Subscribers, \$10 per annum... WEEKLY TRIBUNE, \$3 per annum... ADVERTISING RATES. DAILY TRIBUNE, \$10 per line... WEEKLY TRIBUNE, \$3 per line...

General Notes. The Indian War, The Eight-Hour Law at the Springfield Armory, An American Thanksgiving at Abasco, The National Guard, Fire in a City, Attempted Burglary in Harvard-st., Americans in Paris, The Philadelphia Tragedy, Municipal Affairs, Sudden Deaths, Soldiers and Soldiers' Orphans, Gas Leak at the Olympic Theater, Policeman Beaten, Assassination of Officers, the Erie War, and the Courts may be found on the second page, the Money and other Markets on the third, Literary on the sixth, and Real Estate, Shipping Intelligence, the Union Pacific Railroad, Postal Mismanagement in Idaho, and Removal of Troops from Canada, on the seventh page.

Mr. Johnson is about to rival Garret Davis. It is reported that he means to veto the bill of Congress repealing the Southern militia act, on the ground that it never had any right to pass that act.

Gov. Hoffman has been enabled to reach Albany without the protection of our City Militia, and has taken possession of his official residence. The dispatch naively adds that Gov. Fenton is nevertheless expected to spend a good deal of time in Albany this Winter.

The defeat of the Allied army in Paraguay at Villeta has been followed by a repulse of the Brazilian iron-clads. Still more favorable to Paraguay is the beginning of disagreement between the new President of the Argentine Republic, Sarmiento, and the Government of Brazil. President Sarmiento has asked the new American Minister to Paraguay, Gen. McMahon, to mediate a peace; and as this is necessary to one of the articles of the Triple

Alliance, the Emperor of Brazil is said to be recalling his Ambassador from the Argentine Republic. A falling out between the Argentine Republic and Brazil would soon terminate the war in favor of Paraguay.

It is pleasant to hear from Louisiana that another Revenue official, one Norcross, has been suspended "for gross frauds." But we beg to assure the Treasury Department that Onachita Parish is not the best place in Louisiana to look for the big criminals. Let us have an end of this petty pursuit of the small-fry! Strike for higher game, Mr. Secretary!

Gov. Francis Train's supporters treat us to some remarkably aped paragraphs this morning; but they are insipid as dish-water compared with the dispatch giving the outline of a day's amusements in St. Louis. We can commend New-York as a quiet and peaceful (though somewhat hum-drum) place of retreat to poor Missourians who can no longer endure the excitements of their metropolis.

The Danish Government, seeing that we have paid for our icebergs, wants next to hold us to our bargain about the earthquakes. We learn from Washington that the Danes do not at all relish the idea of taking back as loyal subjects the people of St. Thomas, who voted with such striking unanimity that they preferred another rule. The Danish authorities even hint that it is dishonorable to lure them on to giving up the territory and then then throw it back on their hands.

And now it appears that the ordinary and extraordinary abuses of the Franking Privilege are not enough. Members have not only been franking everything indiscriminately themselves, and having a fac-simile stamp of their autograph made, that every mechanical facility might be employed for increasing the Post-Office deficiency; but, these devices not having made franks cheap enough, counterfeit stamps have been prepared in New-York. Senator Morgan's frank has thus been counterfeited to an alarming extent, and likewise that of Representative Lincoln. Is there any better escape from this fraud than in abolishing the whole system?

The European Conference for settling the Eastern difficulty, which a few days ago was reported as having been accepted by all the Great Powers, now hangs fire. The difficulty which would be represented at the Conference, and views widely differing on the subject; and the only expedient they might possibly unite on would be the recommendation of some small concessions to Turkey. But even such a recommendation, the Turkish Government declares beforehand, would not be accepted by her, and, as she rightly suspects that Conference means compromise, she persists in her refusal to take part in a Conference. Both Turkey and Greece continue their warlike preparations. Greece does not count on an alliance with Russia, but expects that she will be sufficiently strengthened by risings in the Christian provinces of Turkey to render victory in a new Eastern war.

That astonishing personage, Mr. Binckley, bombards Mr. Van Wyck with two mortal columns of stuff, of which this is a sample: "Each of these is a misrepresentation, and by that word I here mean a representation deliberately made opposite to the truth, by a person who knew it was untrue when he made it. There is a shorter name for the same 'thing.' We should think so! But Mr. Binckley never takes any shorter names. Herolds Webster Unabridged and Pictorial like a sweet morsel under his tongue. His genius is wasted in the arid desert of Mr. Johnson's service. Let him hire to Tammany to prepare official advertisements for publication in The Leader. Then shall Mr. Oakley Hall rise up to call him blessed, and the printing bills of the city shall be increased tenfold, and great shall be the rejoicing of the City. We cheerfully commend Mr. Binckley for this employment. He can take more words to express fewer ideas than any man living. As to the matter involved in his last wilderness of words, we are bound to say that we should think it serious if it came from any responsible person. We have hope too high an opinion of Mr. Van Wyck's report; and we should be glad to hear from anybody who could tell a plain story without heroics, the simple facts concerning Mr. Binckley's connection with the Committee, and his search for the Whisky Ring.

And that truth doubtless afforded one of the reasons for not trying him. If any one is sorry that we are not to have another procession of lawyers to Richmond—another tableau in court—and another announcement by telegraph that the trial of Jefferson Davis has been postponed to the next term—he will doubtless make it manifest.

THE SMALLER RASCALS AND RASCALTIES OF THE CITY "RING." While a contemporary is engaged, through its "Commissioner," in the very commendable work of showing up the impositions practiced upon the people of this City in giving short weight and in selling adulterated eatables, would it not be well for it to employ likewise a "Commissioner" to investigate the doings of the Common Council "Ring" at the City Hall? He would there ascertain that, instead of avindling the public in almost infinitesimal doses, such "as the one-sixteenth part of an ounce" in weight, or the "adulteration of ground mace" by pulverized crackers, they carry off their plunder in weights something less than a ton, and adulterate the Tax-Lexy to the extent of about one-half of the whole sum annually wrung from the people of this metropolis.

This Commissioner, when appointed, is requested to ascertain why it is necessary, just at this inclement season of the year, to rebuild the public piers along the east shore of the city "without contracting therefor," while express provision is made in the charter that such work shall be done by contract? He would doubtless get some light with reference to the repairing of many of our streets with wood (Brown's, Smith's, or Jones's patent) or of stone, by contractors who have a peculiar style of pavement; and while the resolutions provide that the price shall "not exceed" \$5 per square yard, it will be very difficult for him to find that in any similar case such work was ever done for \$4.99 or any such economical price.

It would be well also to inquire into the means by which a "three-fourths" vote is procured for all these projects, when there is a minority sufficient to prevent it who were elected by the tax-payers of the city; to share it that they manage, by the same vote, to share among themselves and their subordinates such a liberal distribution of extra pay. They absolutely "spend other people's money as if it were their own." Let us cite a few instances: The Presidents of the Boards of Aldermen and Councilmen each receive a plum in the shape of \$1,000 for services! as ex-officio members of the Committees of the Board. Of course, these services can be readily ascertained by reference to the minutes of the Committees; how many meetings they attended (if any); and how many reports they signed (if any). But the Clerk of the Common Council has a capacious maw. He gobbles up \$1,000 for services ex-officio while President of the Board in 1867. Why not go back further and pay all the Presidents for the past twenty years for the same service, which in this case it has taken a whole year to ascertain!

Next, our efficient Clerk receives the small sum of \$3,000 for compiling the Manual, when it is notorious that the labor attending the production of this "useful" or "useless" (which?) book is performed by his assistants. Happy Joe also comes in for \$500 extra for procuring copies of bills passed by the Legislature affecting the City. This amount would be sufficient to pay the freight of several car-loads from Albany, or would pay the expenses of about fifty messengers to and from that city. But this is not all yet. He and all the Clerks and Messengers, to the number of thirty-one, receive \$350 each as a "Christmas present," for extra services to Committees. We would ask, in our ignorance, for what other services they are employed and paid a liberal salary! But softly! it is whispered that the early education of our City Fathers has been neglected, and it therefore becomes necessary to have an amanuensis to sign their reports. The Chairman of the City Canvassers (an Alderman with a salary of \$2,000 a year) receives \$750 for services in that capacity. Only \$75 per day for sitting in the big easy chair about two hours each day, smoking and chatting with the clerks as they take down the figures, and the other Canvassers eating the fine dinner provided by the gentlemanly George Roome. Here, again, these poorly-paid clerks come in for extra pay; for we observe that the Controller is directed to draw his warrant in favor of the "persons" and the "amounts" respectively as passed by the City Canvassers (Dec. 14, 1868), for services to said Board; also, that he pay the bill for refreshments furnished them.

It is currently reported that the City Hall has been turned into a hotel, where impetuous Aldermen, Councilmen, and heads of departments, feast daily at the public expense. So the keeper of the hall and proprietor of the hotel, at a free rental, has his salary increased to \$3,750 per annum, beside a slight appropriation of \$1,000 by way of New-Year's gift. Thus we might proceed to enumerate cords of resolutions donating the people's money right and left without stint. Truly, "the Ring" at this time have full swing.

One would suppose that there was some of these legislators who would boldly denounce the plunderers and show up their robberies to an indignant public; and surely there are two or three to whom the people have a right to appeal to take this course; but it is a fact that, by cajolery, or flattery, or shall we say some other appliances, their names often appear in the affirmative, and seldom in the negative as they are recorded on these barefaced schemes of plunder. We much fear that, when an indignant people through a Vigilance Committee shall arouse in their might and hang these villains at the portal of the City Hall as a warning to evil-doers, spite of the protestations of "Jeff. Davis." A swindle by which nobody is duped—a farce at which nobody thinks of laughing—must have outlived its day. Now, there has been no intelligent person decried, for at least two years back, by the pretense of keeping Davis in confinement or holding him to bail, as though it were intended that he should be put on trial for his life. For a time, there was some such expectation; and the good-natured public thought it rather a nice thing to spend \$100,000 or so per annum to keep him safe in Fortress Monroe till the day of trial should arrive. But he who does not know that trials for treason must be brought on while treason is still rampant and perilous, or very soon after its collapse, else a conviction is impossible, cannot have read many volumes of history. We doubt that it was ever possible to convict Davis of treason in a civil court, unless by excluding every active Democrat from the jury-box. Judge Anderson, who would have rejoiced to try him with a tolerable chance of success, testified before a Committee of Congress that no verdict could be obtained against him in Virginia unless the jury were packed for the purpose—which is undoubtedly true.

fleets in order. Let the army be recalled from the Plains. Let the State Department cease its vain negotiations for earthquakes; for here is a volcano ready to burst upon us! But our brave eulogists of Train have only begun! Pausing a moment to catch their breath they launch out again. They tell Mr. Train that he is a man of "incorruptible honesty," which the Pacific Railroad and his British creditors believe; of "prodigious industry," which The World newspaper would be very ungrateful not to believe; and of "transcendent talents," which we are sure we all believe with all our hearts. Then, rising to the light of their great occasion, they assure him how "powerfully intensionated" his admiration becomes, at witnessing his "single-handed battle with—y, and 'triumph over—an empire,' by staying in jail till the 'empire' got tired of boarding him. Not satisfied with indicting this verbal vengeance on the "base, bloody, and 'brutal taskmaster," they resolve to afflict us also. They encourage this "transcendent" creature, even after his "fearful incarceration" to visit upon our offending heads, in this peaceful and submissive city, "that glorious sheet which for months in 'the enemy's camp has caused disaster, wonder, and dismay." Which means that the voracious monsters want him to continue printing his marvelous jail journal! We said once in our haste that George Francis Train was the most delightful ass in the whole realm of asses. We take it back. These people who address him are fairly entitled to that proud distinction. We yield to none in our regret for the wrongs of Ireland, or for this chronic rhodomontade and demagoguery that stand in the way of every practical effort for their relief.

EFFECTS OF REDEMPTION—DEBTOR AND CREDITOR. To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: In 1864, I had in my possession \$1,600, which I had saved from my last earnings during several years. In addition to this sum, I borrowed, of my brother B., \$2,000, with which I purchased a lot and built a house for myself and family. The money was loaned for five years, at seven per cent. interest, and bond and mortgage given on the premises. The money was in greenbacks. Now, the question with me is, if the Supreme Court shall decide that greenbacks are not a legal tender, then how am I to pay my borrowed \$2,000? My family will be left without a home, and my little hard earnings will pass into the hands of my rich neighbor B. Please enlighten me in your next, and oblige, yours, respectfully, J. R.

In the year 1867, we bought a little place for five thousand dollars, paid \$1,000 down, and gave a bond and mortgage for \$4,000, which we now owe. Our case, therefore, is just twice as hard as that of J. R. Whether our creditor is rich or poor, we do not know, nor can we imagine that it is any of our business. We bought his property, paid for it in part, and agreed to pay the rest; and that, with God's blessing, we shall do, whether Resumption be effected or not. We understood the matter perfectly—knew that Specie Payments had been suspended and would some day be resumed, and that the property might then be worth less than the mortgage; yet we chose to buy it—perhaps foolishly—and now choose to pay for it exactly as we covenanted to do. This is what we consider honesty; J. R. must judge for himself.

Suppose J. R. had built his house in 1859, and had then borrowed \$2,000 for five years, as he did in 1864. His loan would now have fallen due in 1864, when a dollar in coin would have purchased two dollars in "Legal Tender"; yet he knows right well that he would have paid off his mortgage in Greenbacks, according to law, and had his house and lot very cheap. Can he not comprehend that a good rule should work both ways? The gist of J. R.'s argument is that we should never resume—for, resume when we may, there will always be persons whom Resumption will affect as it would now affect him. He had a perfect right not to borrow and build in 1864, as we had not to buy and run in debt in 1868; yet he saw fit to take the risk, as we did. His bond (like ours) is a promise to pay so many dollars lawful money; we each have our choice to pay (if able) or default. We mean to pay; he will do as he sees fit. [Ed. Trib.]

SCHOOLS FOR ADULTS. "A little learning," notwithstanding the warning couplet concerning its "danger," is sometimes extremely convenient. In the affairs of life, one who cannot read or write bears about the same relation to one possessed of these accomplishments which a blind or lame person bears to the clear of vision or the sound of limb; and as it is better to see, however dimly, or to walk, however slowly, than to have the orb totally quenched or the legs entirely paralyzed, so readers who can make no headway without careful spelling and stammering hesitation, or writers who can achieve but a pitiful and hieroglyphical scrawl, are really accomplished in comparison with those who cannot recognize and much less form a single letter. Apart from all question of intellectual cultivation, there are certain branches of education which are valuable for their mere mechanical and economical utility, and among such we may reckon those the acquisition of which enables their possessor to read his newspaper, instead of hearing it read, or to write for himself a letter of business or affection. In every community, however governed, it is a well settled principle that a pauper is a public misfortune, not only because the cost of his maintenance increases taxes, but because every person incapable of self-support diminishes the aggregate of production and thus lessens the general prosperity. But this prosperity also depends quite as much upon human intelligence as upon mere dogged industry. In all well regulated communities, therefore, a battle is waged against ignorance with as much persistency as if it were a pestilence or a crime. In Massachusetts, for instance, apart from all laws securing compulsory attendance at school, there is, what is better, a feeling among parents in every condition of life that it is disgraceful for their children to come to maturity of years without a good general education. But this feeling is by no means limited to children. Those who are born and nurtured in the State are educated, as a matter of course; but, although it cannot be made compulsory, the education of adults coming from other parts of this country or of the world is encouraged in every possible way. In Boston alone there are a great number of free evening schools for adults, which for several years have been maintained by private benevolence, but which are now under municipal direction, and in which every night stout men, with more than childish docility, struggle with orthography, chirography, and arithmetic. In one locality there is a school for the instruction of mariners in the principles of navigation. In another there is a school for colored adults, with an average attendance of 190. At the Warren-st. Chapel is a school containing 132 men and 87 women, the latter mostly domestic servants. In Washington-st. is a school of 200 pupils, who are generally newboys,

member of Congress from Portland, Me., is used to pass bags full of New-York weekly newspapers through the mail. Five bags of them were received at Cincinnati one day last week, on which the postage would have been \$100.

THE VALUE OF SCIENCE. The value of such sciences of intellectual culture as these depends upon the value of that culture itself, and can hardly be justly estimated by those who from their youth upward have had the path of learning constantly made smooth by the hands of parental anxiety, and every assistance readily afforded in the power of maternal competence to bestow. There are very few persons in this country past their majority and without an education ordinarily good, who do not experience a feeling of mortification and despondency when they consider deficiencies which circumstances render peculiarly marked and observable. The deficiency of such persons, in a majority of cases, can hardly be attributed to any fault of their own. They may have come of ignorant parentage; the first years of their life may have been passed in hard manual labor; and they may have been the wards of that delightful "domestic institution" which found it necessary to make their instruction a felony. Nobody, without personal observation, can comprehend the gratitude with which such persons often receive proffers of instruction, or the zeal and persistence with which the inevitable difficulties of an education delayed until the faculties have ceased to be vivid and plastic, are encountered. The desire to remedy this evil of personal ignorance is a thousand times more honorable to these who experience it and are guided by it, than all the ambitions which have made history merely a record of perverted abilities and of misguided energies. Given one who is willing to be taught after the usual years of technical teaching are past, and we have presumptively a valuable member of society, faithful in small things, and worthy of any trust which demands fidelity and conscientiousness. Of course, whatever effort society may make to redeem all its members from the bondage of ignorance will be repaid just in proportion to the wisdom of its exertions. It was long ago found out, although the knowledge has hardly been wisely acted upon, that self-interest in man or woman is one of the very first conditions of a useful and innocent life; and there need be no attempt to prove that these frequenters of the Adult Schools must, in the nature of things, acquire a commendable pride in their own wise and discreet bearing, as little by little they fit themselves for association with the more highly cultivated classes. To those who are greatly and variously learned, this elementary instruction may seem but a small matter; but the hesitating and blundering pupils of the Adult Schools may, perhaps, be doing as much as the sages to guard society against any possible lapse into barbarism.

ORIGIN OF "LEGAL TENDER." A correspondent's recent avowal that Thaddeus Stevens, and not E. O. Spaulding, was the real author of the Legal-Tender act, has evoked the following counter-statement (which doubtless has Mr. Spaulding's indorsement) from The Buffalo Express. The writer quotes our correspondent's paragraph, and says: "It is hardly worth while, in respect to the statements in the above so glaringly false facts of history that we are not willing to let them go unchallenged. A reference to the records of Congress at the period of the adoption of the legal tender measure will satisfy any person that the bill in question could not have originated with Mr. Stevens in the manner represented. Mr. Stevens was unquestionably its author, as well as its chief advocate. Mr. Spaulding was Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, of which Mr. Spaulding was a member. He had originated the bill, he carried the measure never passed it over to another of his own committee to introduce, champion, and take charge of. Thaddeus Stevens, of all men in the world, never did things in that way. The Legal-Tender note bill was prepared and introduced by Mr. Spaulding in the House, on his own motion, Dec. 30, 1861—the day following the suspension of specie payments by the banks. It was read twice, referred to the Committee of Ways and Means, and ordered printed. (House Bill No. 249.) On the 7th of January, Mr. Spaulding reported the bill from the Committee of Ways and Means, through which it was understood at the time to have been carried with difficulty, by a majority of only one. (House Bill No. 249.) On the 22d of January Mr. Spaulding again reported the bill from the Committee with additions, in the nature of a substitute. It was ordered printed and made the special order for January 22. (House Bill No. 249.) On the 23d of January, the bill being then the special order, Mr. Spaulding opened the debate upon it, in an elaborately prepared and exhaustive speech, which fully presented the argument by which the measure was fully since been maintained whenever its constitutionality has been tested—the argument of its necessity as a war measure. On the 4th of February, Mr. Stevens submitted as an amendment to the bill a substitute, his amendment being to strike out all after the enacting clause, and insert a new bill, partly similar and partly differing very materially from Mr. Spaulding's measure. This fact alone shows conclusively that Mr. Stevens was not the author of the original bill. Two days after, closing the debate, he made his first speech upon the measure. In fact, there is not a shadow of probability even in the statements made by the writer in THE TRIBUNE. The contemporary files of all the New-York papers abundantly testify that the Legal-Tender act was known to be the work of Mr. Spaulding, in its inception and in the carrying of the measure through Congress. On one example, we may quote the following from the Washington correspondence of The Times, dated Feb. 13, 1862, the bill having passed the House Feb. 6, by a vote of 93 to 29: 'Now that the bill has passed, it is but just that due credit should be awarded to the author of the legal tender scheme, the Hon. E. O. Spaulding, member of the House from Buffalo. It is a measure which originated the proposition to force a fixed paper currency upon the country, by making it a legal tender, and which early disclosed the fact which has since become so patent to overlooking majorities in each House of Congress, that the measure would have been defeated if it had not been for the support of the friends of the Government in time to save it from absolute financial ruin. He gave the subject interesting and able attention, devoting to it the entire winter season, and maturing finally a measure which has received the indorsement of the Administration and of all honest and patriotic men. His practical course in Congress, and his unwearied labors, have been a proof of the triumph he has achieved, and the country will not soon forget his services.' The writer above quoted is unfortunate in all his statements. He says that the legal-tender measure was carried through Congress against the most active efforts of Mr. Chief Justice Chase (then Secretary of the Treasury). Mr. Chase was opposed to the bill at first, but in the course of the debate upon it we find that Mr. Spaulding read to the House a letter that he had received from the Secretary of the Treasury, in which Mr. Chase acknowledged that his opinion of the measure had changed; that he had become convinced of its necessity and desired its passage. 'All the facts connected with a measure of such great historical importance as the legal-tender enactment are interesting, and will become more so as we advance beyond the extraordinary epoch to which it belongs. We think it would be well if Mr. Spaulding, who can do so best, would write the history of the measure.'

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