Amusements, &c.

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BOOTH'S THEATER, Twenty-third-st., between Fifth and Sixth-aves.—This Evening at 8.—"Othello." Mr. Edwin Booth as Iago.

COOPER INSTITUTE.—This Evening at 8.—Cuban Meeting. Henry Ward Beecher and others.

FIFTH-AVE. THEATER, Twenty-fourth-st. and Fifth-ave.—This Evening at 8.—Opera Bouffe: "La Grande Duchesse."

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, cor. Eighth-ave. and Twenty-third-st.—This Evening at 8.—"The Tempest." Mr. S. L. Davenport and W. Davidge.

IRVING HALL.—This Evening at 8.—Grand Billiard Tournament. Afternoon and Evening.

NEW-YORK CIRCUS, Fourteenth-st.—This Evening at 7½.—Risley's original Japanese Troupe. "All Right."

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SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, No. 585 Broadway—This Evening.—"The Court of Justice."

THEATER COMIQUE, No. 514 Broadway—This Evening at 8.—"Pluto." Mr. W. H. Lingard.

THE TAMMANY.—Tammany Hall, Fourteenth-st.—This Evening at 7½.—Varieties. Rizarelli Brothers. "Robinson Crusoe and his Man Friday."

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New-York Daily Tribune.

TUESDAY, MAY 4, 1869.

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By a bare majority of three an amended State Registry bill was yesterday ordered to a third reading in the House. We print in another column the text of the new measure, which has aroused bitter Democratic opposition.

The Internal Revenue Office has just given another proof of its well-earned confidence in the Collector of the XXXIId District. The Commissioner has appointed Mr. Bailey to take charge of the entire export warehouse system for this city.

The English House of Commons in Committee yesterday considered that part of the Irish Church bill which refers to the abolition of the *Regium Donum* or the annual grant of £30,000 to the Irish Presbyterians and to the compensation which the Presbyterian Church is to receive. Some slight amendments to this section were adopted.

The German Republican Central Committee, at a meeting last Sunday evening, resolved to ask for the appointment of a German as one of the five Republican Commissioners of Schools under the new act, and agreed on Dr. Hartwig Gercke (Principal of the German-American Institute in West Twenty-third-street) for the post. We know Dr. Gercke as one of the very best teachers in our City; and, though the suggestion comes late, we hope it is not yet too late to secure his appointment. There are very few so well qualified for an intelligent discharge of the duties of the position as he is.

The Wall-st. people don't believe in paying out anything, save in the precise way in which Falstaff *would n't* give even so cheap a thing as reasons, to wit, on compulsion. They have served notice of their intention to carry to the Courts an appeal from the late decision of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, sustaining the positions originally taken by Assessor Webster, and now held by his successor. We take it for granted that they have little hope of preventing the application of this principle for the future. The judicial contest probably means back taxes—a very serious matter to the bankers, and not at all insignificant to the Treasury.

The effort to annul the Bribery bill at Albany yesterday seems to us unwise. Perhaps the bill is not the best that the wisdom even of our present Legislature could frame. We dare say it might be made much more stringent, without making it too severe for the wants of the case. But to attempt amendments now, on any important bill which has been through one House and is sure to be resisted in the other, is to make its passage very doubtful, if not to insure its defeat. Let us take our half-loaves, from this out, and be thankful therefor, rather than clutch for impossible whole ones, and go hungry in consequence.

We have a report this morning from Cuba that a meeting of representatives from all parts of the Island was recently held under the presidency of Cespedes, and declared unanimously not only in favor of an energetic continuation of the war, but of annexation to the United States. Gen. Quesada is said to have again been elected Generalissimo of the Cuban forces. Nothing has heretofore indicated that the desire to be annexed to the United States prevailed among the Cubans, and the above report of the unanimous passage of resolutions advocating annexation stands, therefore, in need of confirmation.

The appointment of a successor to Gen. James Watson Webb, as Minister to the Empire of Brazil, is at last definitely made. Mr. Henry T. Blow, of Missouri, who takes this most important of the South American missions, is a native of Virginia, long identified with the business enterprise and commercial prosperity of St. Louis, and long a zealous Republican in the times when to be a Republican on the Border meant something more than to belong to the party that had the offices. He is a gentleman of culture, social position, and diplomatic experience befitting the post, and his appointment will rank with the wisest President Grant has made.

A Director of the Union Pacific Railroad sends us some refreshing statements about the conduct and motives of another Director, whose caustic report we recently printed. We have not yet felt impelled to deny or doubt anything that any of these Directors have told us. Mr. Snow's report did not seem to us essentially incredible; neither does Mr. Bushnell's. While thus maintaining a judicial and frigid impartiality, we cannot refrain from commending one of Mr. Bushnell's declarations. He assures us that his Company means to expend millions in perfecting its road, "but not one dollar *more* "for black-mail." We tender him our very hearty congratulations. He and his associates might better have reached this wise conclusion earlier; but—we must not look gift-horses in the mouth. Spend your money henceforth, as you promise, rather on your road than in black-mail, and you can soon afford to laugh at the litigations your course may provoke.

THE GRAIN-TRADE.

Chicago is an enterprising, go-ahead city, which has had a rapid growth, and naturally indulges in high-reaching anticipations. We forget how soon she is, according to those anticipations, to surpass New-York in business and population, nor is it essential to remember. Suffice it that she is a city of generous promise and very considerable fulfillment, whose shadow, we trust, will never be less.

Of late, the fact that a good deal of Western Grain is passing down the Mississippi on its way, via St. Louis and New-Orleans, to the East and to Europe, has arrested the attention of her publicists. They do not seem to know exactly what to make of it. Chicago, they insist, is the emporium of the Western Grain-Trade; and something must be wrong when Western Grain seeks the seaboard otherwise than through Chicago. So editorials are written, and conventions held, and reports promulged, with intent to stop the transit of Grain down the Mississippi and turn it to coming East via Chicago—as yet, we believe, with little effect.

One of the schemes under consideration proposes a magnificent Canal—or rather, River—whereby the water of the Lakes shall be made to flow southward through the Straits of Mackinac and the heart of Chicago into the Illinois, and so into the lower Ohio and Mississippi, at a cost of only $84,000,000, or such a trifle. The objection that Cairo would be swamped—perhaps we should say *reswamped*—and much of the valley of the Lower Mississippi drowned out by this "new cut," does not seem to make much impression, being dwarfed by the prospect of seeing Detroit, Toledo, Cleveland and Buffalo, high and dry, and Niagara Falls assimilated to a rural mill-dam in a dry Summer; but the problem "How is Chicago to be benefited by "such a river?" is grave enough. To our mind, it is plain that, if the new river should not float much of the soil of Illinois, including the foundations of Chicago itself, into the Gulf of Mexico, it would impel the "Queen of the "Lakes" to ship *her own* Grain via New-Orleans, and thus aggravate the calamity she is seeking to avert. By annexing herself to the Great Valley, Chicago would be far more likely to accelerate than impede the momentum whereby Produce now seeks the East by way of the South.

A far more hopeful project is that of enlarging and deepening still further our Erie Canal, and thus diminishing the cost of reaching the seaboard via Buffalo and Albany. This looks practical; but who is to bell the cat? It must cost heavily; and, though Chicago may care nothing for such a flea-bite as $84,000,000, New-York has been sobered by experience and does not take kindly to the suggestion of new outlays and new debts, especially when it is intimated that she is expected to disdain any pecuniary return. The general drift of Chicago and even of North-Western opinion, seems to require that our State should, first, double the capacity of her great Canal: secondly, reduce the tolls so that they could not possibly reimburse her outlay; thirdly, cut (or have the Federal Government cut) a magnificent shunpike around Niagara Falls, so as to deprive that Canal of half its natural traffic. We should have to send to Chicago for financiers competent to demonstrate the advantage to our tax-payers of these dashing operations.

Finally, the recent Convention of Boards of Trade at Chicago adopted the report of its Committee, concluding as follows:

Thirdly: Your Committee asks your consideration of the project of organizing, during the ensuing season, for the purpose of pressing upon Congress the necessity of aiding the State of New-York to open the Erie and Oswego canals to the people of the United States for the transportation of produce free of toll; and to hasten the building of the Niagara Ship Canal by the General Government. All of which is respectfully submitted.

This goes to the root of the matter. If Congress shall see fit to devote One or Two Hundred Millions or so of our surplus revenue (?) to the purchase of the Erie and Oswego Canals, and to doubling their capacity, and to making a Ship Canal around the Falls of Niagara, Chicago can doubtless hold her present Grain-Trade, and probably increase it. But St. Louis, and New-Orleans, and Cincinnati, and Memphis, will hardly be "enthused" by the prospect; nor will Norfolk and Baltimore, Pittsburgh and Wheeling, be likely to see their account in it. On the whole, we cannot realize that this new-old scheme of "paying the taxes out of the Treas-"ury" has a living chance of success. Our Pacific Railroad experience is yet fresh and by no means assuring; and we apprehend that Uncle Sam feels too poor to buy or dig Grand Canals just at present. So we submit that the proposed purchase of the Erie and Oswego Canals by the Union—much more, the construction of a Niagara Ship Canal with Federal funds—must stand over for further and very deliberate consideration.

OUR SECOND MONTH.

If we correctly remember, Delmar's prophetic bulletin, issued last Summer in the midst of the last Presidential canvass, figured out a deficit of $175,000,000 to be confronted by our Treasury on the 1st of July next. This was probably not much over $300,000,000, or such a trifle, out of the way. Delmar, however, counted on a Copperhead triumph in the contest then pending, and so expected that the distillers would continue to defraud and the officials to steal, as they had done under the Johnson regime. "The odds is the difference."

Yet it is joyful to know that the Two Millions of surplus of Treasury receipts over expenditures in March has been swelled to Six Millions in April. Nominally, the Debt was reduced over Thirteen Millions in April; but Mr. Boutwell's new and more accurate balance-sheet, wherein accrued interest unpaid is charged as part of the Debt, which it really is, makes the true gain as above. That is to say: the principal of the Debt was reduced $13,586,660 in April; but the interest which accrued in that month, and was not payable till after its close, made the difference.

Gen. Grant's appointees are hardly yet warm in their places, but the coon evidently recognizes Capt. Scott, and begins to come down. Though we have not yet begun to collect the Income Tax, which will swell the receipts of the next two or three months by not less than Twenty Millions of Dollars, we are regularly reducing the Debt, and shall soon begin to make heavy inroads upon it. Let us keep the Taxes up and crowd the Expenditures down, and we may soon congratulate our country on the reduction of the Debt at the rate of Fifty to One Hundred Millions per annum.

We need hardly repeat that the return of One Hundred and Eight Millions of Coin in the Treasury, whereof but Sixteen Millions is balanced by Gold Certificates, is not as we would have it. We hold that not less than Fifty Millions of that Coin should be invested forthwith in Government Bonds, in obedience to the Sinking Fund provision of the Legal Tender act which we have repeatedly quoted. That act was passed more than seven years ago; and, had it been duly obeyed, there should have been One Hundred Millions of Bonds bought up ere this by the Treasury and held as a Sinking Fund for the ultimate extinction of the Debt. These Bonds, seasonably purchased, would have cost less than Seventy-five Millions of Coin; now they will cost at least Ninety Millions; so we have lost, by disregard of the law, Fifteen Millions, beside the interest which would have accrued on the Bonds in the Treasury, which must have reached Twenty-five Millions. Now, Forty Millions is quite enough to lose by the disregard of one law, and we insist that there shall be an end of it. Let us have the law obeyed forthwith and evermore; and let no money be kept in the Treasury that can be spared to pay a Debt. The Gold-gamblers are now engineering a rise in the premium on Coin; let it be met by buying Bonds with Gold till they shall be ready to cry Enough! Give them Sixty or Eighty Millions to shoulder, and see how they like it; and, if our British friends are sending home our Bonds, whether from apprehension or resentment, let the Treasury improve the opportunity to pick them up at a lower figure than is likely to rule hereafter. The Government is strong in its income, its credit, and in the prosperity of the people; let the Finances be wielded with courage and decision, and we may soon fund our Five-Twenties in a new Consol at a saving of Twenty to Thirty Millions of interest per annum. A Government that would have credit should act as though confident of deserving it.

The Sherman Courier, a Rebel-Democratic organ in Northern Texas, thus drew the lines against its political adversaries when it anticipated the election of Seymour and Blair:

"We now, while all is yet calm, say to our fellow-citizens of all political opinions, that the time has come when you must identify yourselves with that party which is in favor of negro political and social equality, or you must join those who oppose it. You cannot adhere to the Radical party and refuse to indorse their Chicago Platform. We have recently heard several of you say that if that principle was embraced in the platform you would quit it. It is done, and you must come to it, or, like men, repudiate it. We know the spoils of office are a great incentive, but the eternal and everlasting infamy and disgrace that will forever close its lecherous clutches around you and yours, is worse. Choose, and choose now. A resolve is deep buried in the hearts of this people, that all who now determine to be negroes, *shall be negroes*. If their love of office and canting hypocrisy causes them to choose that path, then the time is rapidly approaching when their only associates will be the ignorant African. *Before this campaign closes, no negro with a white skin will be permitted to enter any white man's house only as a negro.* Be warned in time. It is coming, and wo be to him who continues to make his bed with Cuffee. The reaction is coming, and it will be more terrible than an army with banners."

While we do not credit all the fine news we hear from the Cuban insurrection, nor yet all the bad news we hear about the Spaniards, we concur very heartily with the opinion attributed to President Grant. He is credited with saying that whatever may be the immediate operations in Cuba, it is certain that **Spain is now putting** forth her full resources, while the insurrectionists, actual or possible, have still a large latent strength on which they can draw when the time of need has come. Believing this, we attach the less importance to any apparent inactivity of the insurgents. They have acted with a wisdom worthy of Fabius, in thus far avoiding decisive encounters; and we are not yet prepared to doubt the probability that their policy will lead to not less favorable results.

NEW SCHEMES ON THE STATE TREASURY.

Some of the new items now before the Committee on Cities in the Assembly, for insertion in the Tax Levies, as given by our correspondent yesterday, do not explain themselves.

The item of $22,240 for the Board of Audit is in addition to a similar amount paid to that Board last year, and is an attempt to get two days' pay for one day's work. The same persons were appointed a Board of Audit of County Claims and of City Claims. The appointments were made in both the City and County levies, and hence the surviving members of the Board claim double pay. When we denounced this early in the history of the Board, one of the members wrote us indignantly denying the intention to make any such claim. The item of $2,000 for Joshua G. Abbe is because some one chose to sue the late Fire Commissioner Abbe, alleging that he had forfeited his office by accepting a political nomination, and this is to pay his counsel fees. The item of $300,000 for the College of the City of New-York is for a new building, &c., for the old Free Academy in Hamilton Square. The $63,200 for Broadway pavement is to repave, in the same manner that the rest of Broadway is now being paved, the portion from Chambers to Canal-st., which is not included in the contract. Though the original contract was probably a swindle, we think a majority of our citizens desire this break to be repaved. The item of $189,630 for Charles Develin, is for an old claim rejected by the courts, but now revived because a big percentage is offered for passing it, and a member of the Committee on Cities is said to be interested. The item for the Binghamton Inebriate Asylum comes from the Excise moneys, and is a final appropriation. The Hoffman Dispensary on Seventh-ave., which asks $11,000, is said to be the establishment that advertises weekly, in *The Sunday Mercury*, to cure "private diseases" for a consideration. The "Monument for Soldiers at Cypress Hill, "$40,000," seems to be a second Court-House, never to be finished. The increase of the salary to the Board of Excise is not $3,000, but $1,500 each, making the salary of the members of that Board $3,000 in all. As members of the Board of Health, they get $2,500, making, with the proposed increase, $5,500 in all to those members who belong only to these Boards. The four Police Commissioners, however, who are members of these Boards, now get $7,000, and, with the increase, will get $8,500, while those members who act as President or Treasurer get an additional sum. Besides this increase, the Board of Police are asking $5,000 each for themselves, thus making their salaries as Police Commissioners only $10,000 each. The salary of the Health Officer no one pretends to guess at. The $2,500 asked for the Record Clerk of Police Courts is, we understand, for a gentleman who is Chief Clerk in one of the United States Internal Revenue Offices, which position *ought* to take all his time. Would it not be a good idea, by a general provision, to forbid any one who draws a salary from the United States to receive anything under the tax levies? The $111,397 asked for the Battery Improvement is directly in the face of the provision in the last year's tax levy, that the large sum then appropriated should complete the work. The appropriations asked for charitable objects seem to be suspiciously sectarian, and one or two of the Societies, if we mistake not, exist only in their reports and their officers' salaries.

The items of increase amount to over a million, and we fear they relate only to the City levy. We hope the members of the Assembly will watch all new items as closely as we mean to watch them.

CLUB-HOUSES FOR WOMEN.

The Sorosis, which has long been a name, has at last, we hear, a local habitation. It wisely exchanges the fixed monthly luncheon of unenviable celebrity for the chance intercourse of every day. It wishes to prove to an incredulous world that it is not a sensation of the time, but the clear answer to an urgent social question. This permanent home of the Sorosis is the high-water-mark of feminine encroachment on the traditional domain of men. For, as we understand, this Society does not resolve that all rogues be hanged, nor discuss any scheme of universal reformation, nor, however haltingly, "make tracks for the "Unknown," as Thoreau has it. The Boston Woman's Club, as is inevitable in Boston air, proposes to make all women better, or at least more didactic. But the Sorosis, like the New-York Club, or the Century, or the Travelers', takes broad ground, and invites its members simply to see each other and to have a good time. And this position opens the whole question of the propriety of Club-Houses for Women. And their propriety cannot be disputed if their necessity exists.

Men found clubs as associations for pleasure, convenience, and the cultivation of eligible acquaintanceship. The conditions of membership are more or less rigid. The ballot is secret. In consideration of certain payments, the member possesses an elegant house wherein to read his papers, to meet the friend with whom he had not time to talk in business hours and at whose house he does not call, to play billiards, to write letters, and to breakfast or dine at a perfectly appointed table, and at extremely reasonable prices. When his cousin, the late Envoy Extraordinary to Mantchouria arrives in town, proposing to exchange his loot for an abode in this cheap and cleanly city, the member takes him to the Club, introduces him right and left, and he is straightway at home in very good society. The Clubs thrive because there are hundreds of men who want their advantages and are quite ready to pay for them. Possibly, also, because there are hundreds of men who want their *dis*advantages, and are equally ready to pay for *them*—these disadvantages being an inordinate harvest of gossip from very small seeds of fact sown broadcast by newspapers and tale-venders, an undue preponderance of billiards over business in the schedule of life familiar to most club-men, and a growing habit of familiarity with a native decoction bearing the French label, and which it is politest to call "the rosy," in remembrance of the poetic Richard Swiveller, esq.

Certainly, thoughtful women do not demand a place of resort which shall copy the blemishes of those which careless men maintain. But among ladies in our very best society the desire for some general center does exist. The **name may be thrown as a sop to Cerberus—whether it be drawing-room, or reading-room,** or parlor in its fine sense, a place for fine talking, or club-house. In a huge, unorganized city like this New-York of to-day, the social graces have scant room and scantier soil. Our Madame Récamier has no *salon*, because cultivated men are too busy to come, and cultivated women must attend to the children, or are too tired, or too rasped with household friction, or too far away, or too proud to appear in old clothes. She has a few receptions whereat she stands painfully at the drawing-room door, and says an agreeable nothing to every comer, and really sees nobody of all the pleasant guests assembled, being absorbed in the effort to make the right persons talk to each other, and feeling it a solemn duty to separate them as soon as the fine magnetic current is established, and they are really brilliant, lest some heavy weight on whom she must bestow one or other should pine in fancied neglect. After the fourth heroic but futile effort to see the friends whose presence she desires and yet to make all others content, she applies the Yankee test, decides that it "does 'at pay," and surveys her empty drawing-room with regret in her heart but comfort in her spine. She fails, not because she has not social genius, but because with us Society is not a Fine Art. Because her guests depend on her to be entertained and do not, with exquisite tact and breeding, entertain each other. And now, having abandoned her Receptions, she casts about for some plan which shall often bring to her Madame de Stäel and Caroline Bonaparte. But the brilliant author lives in Harlem, and the lovely princess in Lafayette-place, and she herself on London Terrace. Her mornings are filled with work, nor can she intrude on the working hours of her friends. In the afternoons she calls, and they are out, or they make weary journeys and she is out, or they come on stated "at home" days, and the room is filled with uninteresting strangers. And so friendships that would brighten life are rudely put aside by geographical boundaries. Now here the ideal club-house opens its hospitable doors. "I will be at the club," writes Madame Récamier to her friends, "at four o'clock on every "Tuesday and Thursday." Twice a week, therefore, the three friends meet, and there is the help of sympathy, the exhilaration of talk sparkling as wine, the pleasure of leaving the familiar furniture behind for an hour or two, and playing this little interlude in the drama of Life with new scenery and accessories. Women need this opportunity of change even more than men, whose work is usually active, and involves the seeing of new faces each day. Even more than men they need the stimulus of conversation with persons whose mental processes are new to them, and the wholesome excitement of the presence of bright thinkers. Again, it is difficult for the most cultivated women, coming strangers to the city, to obtain social recognition. All circles are too busy, and too careless to trouble themselves about new people. Knowing one member of this Club of the Future, these most eligible strangers have the chance of membership, and of many pleasant meetings at the general drawing-room, which they must wait years to receive in their own. And not the least desirable gain would be the quiet luncheon, the comfortable breakfast in house-cleaning time, the occasional dinner. Who shall say that this charming privacy is unfeminine, when he remembers the class of women that take an ostentatious luncheon at Delmonico's, at Taylor's, at Maillard's, at every fashionable restaurant in town?

Clearly the Club of the Future must be organized by women whose social position is conceded, whose executive power is great, and whose patience is as Griselda's. The qualifications for membership must be admirable, and rigidly insisted upon. Feminine gentleness must not shrink from the black-ball. The thing which has *not* been is, we fondly hope, the thing which shall be. Whether Sorosis shall have solved the problem or not, the Women's Club-House will yet be built.

GIVING TAMMANY OUR TAXES.

What corrupt influence tempts Republicans to the folly of giving Tammany Hall the control of our taxes? We are advised from Albany that there has been a mutual agreement to consider the Tax Commissioners bill to-day, and that the chances are in favor of its being ordered to a third reading. We want to see what Republicans vote for this,—we need hardly ask for their reasons.

The proposition is to give over the Tax Commission to a servant of the men who engineered last Fall's Tammany frauds; to present in the name of a professedly Republican Legislature a formal surrender of this most important of our interests to the Democratic party; to make this surrender so complete that even the restrictions with which we have hedged about our own officers shall be removed when the work passes into the hands of theirs! Now Counsel is engaged for the Commission at fixed and moderate salary. When Tammany is generously given the choice of the Commissioners, it is proposed that they shall also select their own counsel, and that the body that built the New Court-House shall pay the bills! Now surveys and maps, when needed, are prepared, at trifling expense, by the City Surveyor. When we turn things over to Tammany, we leave this like the other expenditures, to its honor, and impose no restrictions!

Was ever a Republican Legislature importuned with a more marvelous petition to surrender to the enemy? Let us see who the men are that want Tammany to have the naming of our Tax Commission, and then want to give its creatures a license we never before dreamt of intrusting even to Republicans!

The phenomena of Spiritualism may or may not be genuine; spirit photography may or may not be a delusion, for all Justice Dowling has decided. The Mumler arrest has ended as was to have been foreseen from the beginning. The prosecution undertook to prove that the shadowy figure which Mumler produced in the background of a photograph was *not* the portrait of a spirit. It failed to prove it to the satisfaction of Justice Dowling. It proved that such pictures could be made in a dozen different ways, by secret or recognized photographic appliances, but it did not prove that this one was made in any of these ways. It proved that photographers could, by dexterous manipulation, deceive anybody by the production of bogus portraits of spirits, but it did not prove that this photographer did so. It proved some pretty damaging things about his history, and the history of his art; but it stopped short of proving that the picture in court was not a genuine portrait of a genuine spirit. In short, it failed in its evidence precisely where the conditions and limitations of the case made it certain beforehand that it must fail. The result seems wholly inconclusive, as any similar effort would appear likely to be until physical science can carry its demonstrations much further than at present into what is now the exclusive domain of the spiritual. Meanwhile the facts presented in the communications printed elsewhere on the subject are sufficiently striking to fix general attention. Some of them are certainly hard to explain on any theory that ignores Spiritual phenomena, and all possess the mysterious element that gives peculiar fascination to this whole class of questions.

UNGRATEFUL AMERICA.

One of the chief arguments of *The London Times* in discussing Mr. Sumner's speech upon the Alabama Claims may, for the benefit of those who like to run while they read, be succinctly stated as follows:

A and B having engaged in a desperate combat, C, passing that way, takes the opportunity of picking A's pocket. The fight being over, A discovering the larceny, hostilities having ceased through the total discomfiture of B, the aggrieved A demands restitution of C. This felonious personage, with more than the brass of his craft, responds—but we will let *The London Times* (quoting from the telegraphic abstract of its article) answer for him:

"*The Times* argues that although according to Mr. Sumner England was the only foreign power in the world implacably hostile to America, it is not too much to say that at one moment the fate of the American Union depended on the voice of England, whose sword thrown into the scale would have decided the contest, and shows the unfairness, bordering on infatuation, which leaves this consideration out of account."

—"Shows the unfairness," we take it, is the private opinion of the gentleman on the other side of the water who made up this abstract. It is not quite agreeable to be told that you are "bordering on infatuation;" but at the risk of being charged with downright lunacy, we must confess that we do not see the necessity of taking "this consideration" into account. Here is a prodigious credit claimed for rather unusual magnanimity, because England did not throw her sword into the scale, and so establish the Southern Confederacy upon the ruins of this Republic! What charming amiability! what engaging disingenuousness! "I have your pocket-book, it is true," says C, "but as I did not break your head "when I could easily have done so, I suppose "you will allow me to keep it. Oh! you will "not allow me to keep it? Very well, then, I "beg leave to inform you that I intend to "keep it; and I am quite ready to break your "head this time without any mistake what-"ever."

A moral poet once observed that Heaven was sick and Earth was weary of the hollow words which States and Kingdoms utter when they talk of justice. "Hollow" is a good word, but "silly," at present, seems a better one.

If you want to hear news about home, go abroad. *The Pall Mall Gazette* has a lively picture of the velocipede fever in New-York, from which one would infer that the light and airy bicycle was driving all other vehicles from the thoroughfares. "The velocipedes," says this London journal, "have of course taken up "a good share of the streets, and New-York, "always an ill-regulated city, must now pre-"sent unusual dangers to the unwary pedes-"trian. The aldermen have interfered, but no "one minds them. Young America is not to "be checked in the path of distinction by an "edict from the City Hall."

The National Convention of the Grand Army of the Republic will meet at Cincinnati on the 12th of May, and *The Cincinnati Enquirer's* equanimity is much disturbed at the fact that the City Council have appropriated $1,000 toward defraying the expenses of the Convention. We remember that *The Enquirer* was not pleased with the doings of the Grand Army of the Republic at any time from 1861 to 1865.

Correspondents and journals suggest that the Commissioners recently appointed to secure a change in the designated site of our proposed City Post-Office, should seek a location outside of the City Hall Park. The Commissioners have no power to do any thing of the sort.

The Senate has taken some pity on our long-suffering Sheriff—not so much as he wanted, but far more, we fear, than the tax-payers of New-York care to bestow. The details of the bill fixing his fees, which that body has approved, are given elsewhere.

THE REV. DR. LEAVITT VERSUS TRUTH.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: In the Rev. Dr. Leavitt's "Cobden Club Prize Essay," I find the following sentence:

"The Protective policy cannot stand in America, by the admission of its advocates, except as it is deemed an expression of hostility against England."

In the dispatches received by the Atlantic Cable, published in *The Evening Post* of Saturday, *The Times* (London) is reported to use the following language:

"The Protective Tariff system is strong in the United States, *only because it works injury to Great Britain.*"

The Times, without doubt, took its cue from Mr. Leavitt's gold medal essay. It seems to me that the Reverend Doctor, instead of promoting "improved political and commercial relations between Great Britain and the United States," is likely to make them more hostile to each other by this sort of misrepresentation. I have conceived the ground of our Tariff to be *the necessity of revenue to pay the interest on our Public Debt.* I am sure that was the animus of Congress in adopting it; and, while some votes may have been partly influenced by a feeling of indignation toward the British Government for opening all her colonial ports to pirates engaged in the destruction of our lawful and peaceful commerce, I hazard the assertion that the necessity of revenue was, and is, the basis of our present Tariff system.

Mr. Leavitt is putting prejudice and malice into British ink by false statements. *The London Times* is, perhaps, excusable for taking as authority a serious essay, written deliberately in the closet by an attaché of a professed Republican journal; but its belief, and that of other English journals, that the principal measure of our economic policy has been adopted by our National Congress in pure vindictiveness toward England is certainly calculated to stir the pot of anger between the two countries.

It is equally false that the advocates of the Protective system have ever admitted any such thing as that the system "cannot stand, except as it is deemed an expression of hostility against England." H.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN PEARL-ST.—LOSS ABOUT $40,000.

About 12½ o'clock this morning, a fire broke out on the third-floor of the four-story and attic brick building, No. 67 Pearl-st., near Broad, occupied by Wm. F. Allen & Co., dealers in butter and cheese. The firemen were promptly at the scene of the conflagration and in a short time had four powerful streams playing on the building. Very fortunately the fire was confined to the building in which it originated, the adjoining buildings being but little damaged. Messrs. Allen & Co., were the only occupants of No. 67, and suffered loss on their stock to the amount of at least $5,000. The building itself is almost completely destroyed, and the loss must be in the neighborhood of 15,000. The upper floors of the buildings on each side of No. 67 were considerably damaged. The occupants of No. 68—A. D. Putnam & Co., first floor; Miner & Beeson, upper floors—are losers to a considerable extent. A. C. Smith, jr., who occupies No. 69, had a large quantity of hops stored on the upper floor of Nos. 67, 68, and 69, but his loss could not be ascertained. The gable roof of the burning building fell over on the roof of No. 65, occupied by Wm. Hurlburt & Bros., and crushed it in, damaging a large quantity of hops that were stored on the upper floor. The total loss cannot fall far short of $40,000, and will probably exceed that amount.

An association of about 400 Bohemians, in Chicago, have sent a Committee to Minnesota, in order to select a locality in that State for a settlement. The Association expect an increase of about 600 persons from their native country during the Summer.

Col. Meyer, lately taken prisoner with Negrete's men in Mexico, was born in the Argentine Republic, and is the son of German parents. During the American civil war he was Lieutenant-Colonel of a colored regiment, under the command of Gen. Weitzel. As Colonel of a Mexican regiment, under Escobedo's command, he participated in the battle of Queretaro.