Amusements, etc., This Evening.

BOOTH'S THEATER.—At 2 and 8: "Rip Van Winkle." Joseph Jefferson.

FIFTH-AVENUE THEATER.—At 1½ and 8: "Saratoga."

GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—"Les Brigands." Mlle. Aimee.

LINA EDWIN'S THEATER.—At 2 and 8: "Kind to a Fault," and "Aladdin."

NIBLO'S GARDEN.—At 1½ and 8: "The Black Crook."

OLYMPIC THEATER.—At 2 and 8: "Wee Willie Winkie." G. L. Fox.

WALLACK'S THEATER.—At 1½ and 8: "War."

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—Philharmonic Society's Concert.

ASSOCIATION HALL, Twenty-third-st. and Fourth-ave.—Concert. Rosenthal.

NEW-YORK CIRCUS.—At 2½ and 8: "Cinderella." Equestrian exercises, acrobatic performances, &c. L. B. Lent.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, No. 585 Broadway. Songs, dances, eccentric acts, etc.

SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' ORPHANS' FAIR, Armory of 71st Regiment.

WOOD'S MUSEUM AND MENAGERIE.—At 2: "True to the Last;" at 8: "The Forty Thieves." Lydia Thompson Troupe.

Business Notices.

THE GREAT FIRE AT RICHMOND.
HERRING'S SAFES IN THE SPOTSWOOD.
$23,500 IN CURRENCY,
AND THE BOOKS, PAPERS, SILVER, AND VALUABLES OF THE SPOTSWOOD HOTEL, AND THE ADAMS SOUTHERN EXPRESS COMPANY ARE SAVED IN HERRING'S SAFES.

J. C. BABCOCK'S LETTER.

OFFICE OF ADAMS EXPRESS COMPANY, 59 BROADWAY, NEW-YORK, Dec. 31, 1870.

Messrs. HERRING, FARREL & SHERMAN: Our Agent at Richmond writes: "We got through to-night drying and fixing up the money from the late fire. The contents of the Safe, $23,530 in bills, we recovered. It was a Herring Safe, and a good one, certain." Yours, truly,
J. C. BABCOCK, Treasurer.

J. F. GIBSON'S LETTER.

OFFICE OF SOUTHERN EXPRESS COMPANY.

Messrs. HERRING, FARRELL & SHERMAN, *New-York*—GENTS: The two Safes of your manufacture, which we had in use on the morning of the 25th inst., at the disastrous fire which destroyed the Spotswood Hotel and adjoining block of buildings, in which our Office was in the center, have given full satisfaction, and served to prevent the destruction of some $20,000 in currency, beside the valuable papers and books inclosed therein. Owing to the dangerous condition of the standing walls, it was impossible for workmen to excavate the Safe until nearly 80 hours after the fire. The large Safe was then cut open, and contents found as above. We opened the small Safe with similar results. In consideration of the foregoing facts, I am pleased to add this testimony and indorsement to the well-earned reputation of your Fire-Proof Safes. Respectfully,
J. F. GIBSON, Ass't Sup't for Adams Southern Ex. Co.

Richmond, Va., Dec. 29, 1870.

CRADDOCK & PARKER'S LETTER.

RICHMOND DETECTIVE AGENCY, RICHMOND, Va., Dec. 31, 1870.

Messrs. HERRING, FARREL & SHERMAN—DEAR SIRS: Please pardon me for addressing you in the manner I do, but, being a New-Yorker, I take the liberty. We were called upon to open the Safe of the late Spotswood Hotel, built by you, after it had been in the fire for (twenty two) 22 hours. We opened it in the ruins by cutting through the bottom with chisels and sledge, and found money, silverware, &c.—a very large amount—all O. K. I send you by this mail a paper. Yours, respectfully,
CRADDOCK & PARKER.

LETTER FROM J. M. SUBLITT & CO.,
Proprietors of the Spotswood.

RICHMOND, Va., Dec. 29, 1870.

Messrs. HERRING, FARREL & SHERMAN—GENTS: On the morning of the 25th inst. we were so unfortunate as to have our hotel burned, with contents. Yet we were fortunate enough to have one of your Herring's Patent Champion Safes, which fell into the cellar among a burning mass of ruins. After the fire abated, we tried all means to extricate it, but found it impossible on account of the bricks, mortar, and burning rubbish lying thereon and about it, so we employed a mechanic and cut it open through the bottom, and to our utmost surprise we found the contents, consisting of valuable papers, money, and some silverware, all in good order. Had it not been for your Herring's Safe we would have lost everything.
J. M. SUBLITT & CO.

HERRING'S PATENT CHAMPION SAFES,
THE MOST RELIABLE PROTECTION FROM FIRE NOW KNOWN.
HERRING'S NEW PATENT CHAMPION BANKERS' SAFE,
THE BEST PROTECTION AGAINST BURGLARS' TOOLS EXTANT.
HERRING, FARREL & SHERMAN,
251 Broadway, cor. Murray-st., New-York.
FARREL, HERRING & CO., Philadelphia.
HERRING, FARREL & CO., Chicago.
HERRING, FARREL & SHERMAN, New-Orleans.

MARBLE MANTELS, MONUMENTS, FLOOR TILING, &c.—HENRY PARRY, Manufacturer and Importer, warerooms, 823, 825 Fourth-ave. Steam Marble Works, 121, 123, 125 East 22d-st.

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WHEELER & WILSON'S SEWING MACHINE, 1,141 Broadway, corner Twenty-sixth-st., sold, by paying $10 down, and $10 per month, without extra charge. Machines to let. J. T. ELLIS.

THURSTON'S IVORY-PEARL TOOTH POWDER cleanses, preserves, and beautifies the teeth. Sold by Druggists and Fancy Goods Dealers. Price 25 and 50 cents a bottle.

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FOLEY'S CELEBRATED GOLD PENS,
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While at dinner, see that your second-story windows and settles are protected with HOLMES'S BURGLAR ALARM TELEGRAPH—the only protector that will secure your house from burglars. Look out for infringements on my patent. H. HOLMES, 7 Murray-st.

DOOLEY'S YEAST POWDER is put up in packages to suit the wants of all. Superior to any other Baking Powder in market, and convenient, economical, and wholesome. A single trial will convince the most careful that it is as represented, the most reliable, healthy, and cheapest ever offered to consumers. Depot 69 New-st.

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672 Broadway, N. Y.; 1,609 Chestnut-st., Phila.; 21 Green-st., Boston.

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In making remittances always procure a draft on New-York, or a *Post-Office Money Order*, if possible. Where neither of these can be procured, send the money, *but always in a* REGISTERED *letter.* The registration fee has been reduced to *fifteen cents*, and the present registration system has been found by the postal authorities to be virtually an absolute protection against losses by mail. *All* Postmasters are obliged to register letters when requested to do so. Terms, cash in advance.
Address THE TRIBUNE, New-York.

New-York Daily Tribune.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 1871.

The bombardment of the Forts on the South of Paris began on Thursday. ═══ Gen. Manteuffel reports that he has twice defeated the French army of the North, capturing 500 prisoners; Gen. Faidherbe, however, still claims a victory over the Prussians. ═══ Gen. Glumer still holds Vésoul, disputing the passage of the Saône by the French. ═══ The siege of Belfort continues.

The Senate was not in session yesterday. ═══ In the House, the resolutions disapproving of the conduct of Admirals Godon and Davis during the troubles in Paraguay, were passed. A bill was reported to provide for a Territorial Government for Indian Territory.

Another steamer disaster has occurred on the Mississippi River, no lives being lost. ═══ A railroad accident in Mississippi severely injured two persons. ═══ Coal has been discovered in Utah. ═══ A dispatch from Virginia details an alleged affray between the whites and blacks, several persons being killed and wounded. ═══ A block of business houses has been burned in Plattsburg, Mo. ═══ The Roman Catholics of Boston expressed their sympathy with the Pope, yesterday. ═══ An express messenger was robbed and fatally wounded in Albany last evening.

Prof. F. H. Hamilton lectured on the "Triumphs of Modern Surgery." ═══ A colored woman was stabbed 18 times by a discarded lover. ═══ The question of the place of trial of the Fisk-Ramsay suit was argued again. ═══ Gold, 110⅝, 110⅜, 110⅝. Thermometer, 46, 36.

Half a truth is frequently all a lie. Fresh proof of this ancient truth has been furnished, unintentionally we hope, in the publication of a letter from Mr. Orville Grant to the President, making charges against certain revenue officials of Chicago and conveying the impression that the Executive retained corrupt men in office. Proper investigation shows that the charges were withdrawn as based on misinformation, and that the retention of the officials has been strongly reccommended on the same authority.

We print on the second page a report of the interesting lecture of Professor Hamilton on the "Triumphs of Modern Surgery," delivered last night before the American Institute.

This present time of embarrassment in Europe appears to be a very good opportunity for America to settle her old claims. England betrays her anxiety to arrange with us before plunging into greater complications in the East, and Spain has actually opened negotiations for the settlement of American claims in Cuba.

There comes a sensational story of riot and bloodshed in South Carolina, in which the negro militia of that State are denounced as the chief participants. Had the rioters been white men or soldiers the report would have probably made a brief item in a dull corner of the Democratic sheets; but as they happen to be colored militia we shall doubtless be treated to indignant demands for the disarming of all colored conservators of the public peace.

The Prussians have turned their attention and their guns also upon the southern forts of Paris, apparently abandoning for the time the demolition of the silenced works on the east. The ground held by the Germans south of the city is much higher than the positions crowned by the Paris forts, and those acquainted with the topography of the vicinity have supposed that the real attack, if ever made, would be from the south. The bombardment began on Thursday, but the results attained are not yet announced.

Who won the victory at Bapaume, on New-Year's Day, is still a matter of doubt and dispute, both Manteuffel and Faidherbe claiming the little glory attached to it. It is of slight consequence, however, since the affair itself was not one of great moment. After the battle had ended, Gen. Faidherbe, according to his own story, retired to his camp, which was not in the direction of Paris, and thus abandoned the fruits of the victory he claims. He promises to resume the advance as soon as he can obtain supplies. It will be necessary, also, that he recruit his strength if he hopes to accomplish much of his difficult journey.

We print elsewhere a full and valuable summary of the diplomatic correspondence and transactions of the State Department during the past year. The correspondence with the English and Canadian Governments relative to the Fishery Troubles shows that the President's positive language in his late Message was justified by the facts developed and the tone of the Canadian authorities. The official history of the Tien-Tsin Massacre contains little that is new to the readers of THE TRIBUNE, but it reveals that the relations of this country and China were not seriously disturbed by that unfortunate affair, and that present active negotiations promise great commercial advantages for Americans in the Flowery Kingdom. There is much in the report which will be found new and interesting; and the careful study of the entire article is necessary to a correct comprehension of our present foreign relations.

It seems, after all, that it was not Admirals Godon and Davis, but the Navy Department under Mr. Welles, which was to blame for not aiding Minister Washburn in Paraguay. The policy and practice of the navy, we are told, have been to look upon our diplomatic representatives abroad as a set of very ignorant fellows indeed; and when any one of them asks for protection from a man-of-war, it is the duty of the commander thereof to write home about it, asking orders. This is the construction which Admiral Porter puts upon the relations of the two branches of the service abroad, and to him and Secretary Welles we are jointly indebted that the American service was disgraced on the Parana. Some will see in this another argument for the discontinuance of a rank which, if filled, will keep in place an officer who thus misconstrues the plain duty of naval commanders. The House has now voted censure of the Admirals named, and there is some probability that inquiry is to be made in the matter. If it results in teaching naval officers that the dignity and honor of the Government are to be sustained abroad without waiting for "special instructions," it will have attained at least one good end.

FOGGY SUNSHINE.

The Sun contradicts, with a suitable show of indignation, charges which no one has made, and leaves untouched those which *have* been made, and backed by corroborating extracts from its own columns. It says—in reply to our pointed inquiry as to the accuracy of the statements respecting its interview whereof Mr. Thomas C. Acton was a witness—that:

"Soteldo was one of the Albany correspondents of *The Sun* last winter. He is a bright, vivacious, vain, weak, and silly fellow. It is very difficult to tell whether he is now sane or insane. He came to me some time since in company with Thomas C. Acton, and made a voluntary confession that he had corruptly received money while at Albany. He seemed very penitent; indeed, almost heart-broken, at the enormity of his own treacherous dereliction. He vowed to me that if I would forgive him this once he never would offend again. Mr. Acton expressed the opinion that Soteldo would keep his promise. I felt unwilling to destroy the young man, not only on his own account, but also on account of his aged father. He has now destroyed himself."

—The following is the portion of "The Biter "Bit" referred to in the foregoing:

"HOW MR. DANA WAS INSULTED.

"On Sunday evening, November 6, 1870, but two days preceding the election, a gentleman, while in conversation at the Fifth-Avenue Hotel with Mr. Thomas C. Acton, ex-Police Commissioner and present Superintendent of the New-York Assay Office, informed the latter that *The Sun* was a rotten institution, and proceeded to state his reasons for so asserting.

"He told Mr. Acton of the bargain between the Managing Editor of *The Sun* and Mr. Tweed; of the bargain between Nicholas Muller and the Managing Editor; and of sundry other facts known to the gentleman in question, some of which are detailed above, and others which are for the present withheld from the public.

"Mr. Acton professed great surprise at what his friend said, and suggested that it was due to Mr. Dana to inform him of the matter without delay. Mr. Acton further proposed to accompany the gentleman to Mr. Dana's house immediately. The gentleman signified his readiness to convey Mr. Dana the desired information.

"Both walked down to Mr. Dana's residence, in East Eighteenth-st.

"Mr. Dana was not in.

"Mr. Acton said that, as they had gone so far, they had better take a Third-ave. car and ride to *The Sun* office.

"They did so. Arrived at *The Sun* office, Mr. Acton went up to the editorial rooms to apprise Mr. Dana that a gentleman desired to see him down stairs.

"In about two minutes, Mr. Acton reappeared, accompanied by Mr. Dana, who wore the Scotch cap he always wears when in harness.

"'What is it?' said Mr. Dana, on reaching the bottom of the stairs.

"'It is a long story,' was the reply, 'and we had better go into the publication office, where we will be undisturbed.'

"Mr. Acton, Mr. Dana, and the other gentleman, then walked into the publisher's private office. Mr. Dana sat down on the lounge, while Mr. Acton and his friend occupied seats facing him. The gentleman then detailed to Mr. Dana all the *minutiæ* of the little arrangement between Mr. Tweed and the Managing Editor.

"When the gentleman had narrated the transaction between the Managing Editor and Mr. Nicholas Muller, Mr. Dana, indignantly turning to Mr. Acton, said:

"'Well, he (the Managing Editor) has always pitched into this man Muller every opportunity he has had.'

"'Not since the $250 were paid, Sir, I'll warrant,' said the gentleman. [Mr. Muller paid the money on October 6, 1870.]

"'Well, then, all I've got to say is, that he earned the money very cheap,' put in Mr. Dana.

"Mr. Dana was next informed of other *money* transactions between his Managing Editor and several Tammany Hall politicians, &c.

"Mr. Dana, after declaring *that nobody could buy* HIM (to which declaration both gentlemen, out of compliment, nodded assent), appeared anxious to get away. All three then arose to depart. Mr. Acton and Mr. Dana, however, turned back and conversed for about a half-hour longer in the publisher's office. While waiting for them to conclude their talk, *the gentleman observed Controller Connolly enter and walk up stairs to the editorial rooms.*

"In about fifteen minutes, Messrs. Acton and Dana made their appearance.

"After bidding Mr. Dana good-night, Mr. Acton and his friend left.

"On their way to the cars, Mr. Acton observed that *Mr. Dana asked how much he (Acton) had paid him (his companion) for imparting the information.*

"This rebuke was all the thanks Mr. Acton received for what he considered an act of kindness to the Editor of *The Sun*."

Comments by The Tribune.

Mr. Acton is widely and well known. If he was *not* a witness to the revelations made to Mr. Dana touching the bribery, both wholesale and retail, of his lieutenant, he would of course have been called to refute the statement that he was. The Editor of *The Sun* in fact admits the correctness of the pamphlet's account of the interview to which he and Mr. Acton were parties. He thus admits that he was told of his lieutenant's corruptions—his prostitution of the columns of *The Sun* by sale and delivery to Tweed, and the blackmailing of Muller. That lieutenant was nevertheless retained by him for at least two months afterward—so far as the public is advised, is *still* retained—in a position of the very highest responsibility.

We submit that *The Sun* cannot afford to rest here; and that its fulsome adulation of Fisk and Gould ever since its suppression of "The Welchers of Wall-street" decidedly requires explanation. Did the fact that *The Sun* found them (as it pretends) implicated with President Grant, so commend them to its emphatic, persistent laudations?

A CONFESSION OF GUILT.

From The World.

The introduction by Mr. Creamer in the State Senate, and by Mr. Fields in the Assembly, of a bill to repeal the New-York City Registry Law, foreshadows, no doubt, the removal of that invidious enactment from the statute-book. We are told that equal rights is the pole-star of Republican doctrine, and surely those given over to that particular creed cannot blame an effort to put this City on the same electoral footing as that of every other within the limits of the State. No caste, you know; no class distinction, no inequality; and, in order that there shall be none, down with your Registry Law!

Comments by The Tribune.

If the present rulers of our State were to concoct and urge the passage of a bill making it felony for any resident thereof to bolt his front door or deposit his valuables in a safe or any kind of lock-up, no one could plausibly affect to doubt that they meant to favor the thieves and burglars who contribute so largely to swell the Democratic vote of this City and its suburbs. Can there be any doubt that the movement fathered by Messrs. Creamer and Fields is *intended*, as well as calculated, to facilitate and increase Illegal Voting, by rendering its detection and punishment so rare as to encourage its practitioners with the rational hope of practical impunity?

Suppose the Democratic party were to abolish altogether the Registration of Deeds, Mortgages, Wills, &c., bidding every one look out for himself against frauds affecting the conveyance or devise of property, should we not *know* that they meant to facilitate such frauds, by rendering their perpetration more easy and safe?

—"But why have a Registry of Voters *for "the City?"* asks *The World.*

Let those who confined it to the City, by the legislation of last Winter, make their own answer. We speak for those who hold it the first duty of a free State to guard its ballot-boxes against invasion and pollution by votes fraudulently cast.

We voted, for at least twenty years, at the polls of this City—having voted in different years at the polls of the Ist, IIId, IVth, Vth, VIth, VIIIth, XIIth (now XIXth), and XVIIIth Wards. Of those who voted where we did, not one-twentieth were known to us as legal voters or otherwise; and most others seemed as ignorant on this point as we were. Men came with ballots in their hands or pockets, or procured ballots at one of the adjacent booths, and handed them to the Inspectors, who dropped them into the boxes—often without inquiry or deliberation. There was nothing to hinder one who had just voted at one poll proceeding directly to another, there repeating the operation, and so at a third, fourth, fifth, tenth, and twentieth poll. The Democrats who should attempt this game would not be deterred by the presence of acquaintances known to them to be Democrats, since they would be sure these would not "peach" or "go back" on them—and one of them would rarely confront at any poll a Whig or Republican who knew him as not entitled to vote there. If one ever did, he had only to wait a little till the undesirable witness left, or pass by that poll and resume his voting at the next. A Democratic candidate for Congress while we had no Registry once told us that he received votes at Harlem from persons who simultaneously voted the Democratic Charter ticket of the Ist Ward; and he had no doubt that they began voting at the Battery and kept on voting at each poll they passed till they reached the Harlem river. In our deliberate judgment, there have been a Quarter of a Million illegal votes polled in this City since we first entered it in 1831—at least nineteen-twentieths of them for what was called the Democratic ticket. And it is precisely because the thieves, burglars, blacklegs, brothel-keepers, and other enemies of law and justice who crowd this City, are Democrats by instinct, and glad to earn the good will of our Democratic Mayors, Judges, District-Attorneys, &c., by wholesale repeating and ballot-box-stuffing, that our *Worlds* and Tom Fields hate and war upon Registry Laws. Frail barriers as they are, and often overleaped or broken down, they do render Illegal Voting less common, more difficult, more perilous, than it otherwise would be. They compel every person who meditates fraud to give a kind of notice of his purpose. Where an election district is known to include but four or five hundred legal voters, a registration of nine or ten hundred names gives warning that fraud is there to be attempted. Break down the Registry, and the difficulty of watching and guarding against such crimes will be immeasurably increased.

For nearly twenty years past, our vote has been regularly cast at one of the two polls of a rural township which has about 500 to 550 voters, and polls from 400 to 475 votes. In that township, we are confident that not five illegal votes per annum have been offered since 1852: in fact, we doubt that *one* illegal vote has been offered at a majority of the elections held within that period. And this for the very good reason that every voter in the township is personally known to men of either party whom he will meet at the polls; and, whenever a stranger presents himself, persons of each party know just when he came into the town, whether he is or is not reputed of full age, whether, if foreign-born, he has been naturalized or not, &c., &c. We hold it impossible to poll ten illegal votes in that township without sending at least five of the bogus voters to State Prison.

We are in favor of a Registration of Legal Voters in *every* Election District, rural as well as urban, just as we would have deeds registered in Putnam County as well as Kings; but the *reasons* for such Registration are many times as urgent in a city as in a rural district, and ten times as urgent in this City and Brooklyn as in Rochester or Troy. In Rochester, a man will generally know what legal voters live on the same block with himself; here, we often do not know who lives in the next house to our own.

The men who seek the overthrow of Registration in this City are villains. Some of them mean to vote illegally; others to incite and suborn rascals to do so; while a great many are of the cowardly breed of despicable knaves described by Lady Macbeth, when she told her husband he

"would not play false;
And yet would wrongly win."

It is the passive countenance afforded them by this class which renders our Tweeds and Fisks so prosperous and powerful.

Mr. Tweed last Winter won the votes of our Republican Senators (Mr. Thayer excepted) for his Charter, by giving them (he said) honest elections in this City. He now proposes to keep the power he thus retained and consolidated and take back the consideration. There ought to be Democrats in the Legislature too honest or too decent to aid him in this nefarious work; but are there? Let us watch and wait.

A CRY OF THE INCURABLES.

Few of our public or State charities are more neglected than the Asylums for the Insane. They are inadequate in number and size, and painfully defective in their organization. The latest reports show that they are frightfully overcrowded, the New-York City Asylum, for instance, having more than 1,200 patients, though originally built to accommodate but 600. There are only seven of these institutions in the State, of which the one here is the largest, and these are expected to care for over 9,000 patients.

As now organized, the State Asylums are merely hospitals for the cure of the Insane. We have in the whole State not a single home for the numerous Incurables. After six months, when the insane patients are pronounced incurable, they are, by law, expelled from the Asylums, as no longer having the legal qualification for residence. They are returned to their friends, if they happen to have any, or to the counties whence they came if they are doubly unfortunate in being pauper patients. What happens to them in this event is too horrible to imagine. The great majority are prematurely buried in the "Insane Departments" of the county work-houses. Here, in damp, dark, unfurnished cells, which are seldom cleansed, without beds, or even straw, to lie upon, the unfortunates are abandoned to die without medical attendance, and little care of any kind. In every county work-house in this great and wealthy State from ten to one hundred and forty Incurables are thus left to perish miserably within the shadow of wealthy churches and the hearing of Christian voices.

The Legislature last Winter made an appropriation to aid in the building of an additional institution at Middletown, which should be at once a Hospital for the cure of the temporarily insane and a Home for Incurables. The charter was granted to an Association of Homeopathic physicians, and the design is that all patients received shall be subject to that treatment. If successful in their object, these gentlemen will have built and organized the only Homeopathic Asylum for the Insane known to exist in the world. The appropriation of $150,000 by the State was made contingent on the raising of a like sum by private charity. Much of this has been subscribed, we believe, in the country towns. Among other efforts to secure additional amounts in this city, the managers have organized a grand Charity Ball, which is to come off on the evening of the 10th inst. This method will, we trust, commend itself to the wealthy and the benevolent whose sympathies and liberality are never appealed to in vain by an urgent cry of distress like this. The management of the affair is in the hands of such estimable and influential persons that it cannot but be successfully and decorously conducted.

LONDON WORKINGMEN ON THE WAR.

An organization of London workingmen has transmitted an address to the workingmen of the United States, in reply to the resolutions adopted by a peace meeting at Cooper Institute on the 19th of November. Our English friends hail with pleasure the sentiments expressed by that assemblage, and are anxious that Great Britain should act upon them by instantly going to war with the German Empire. Their great fear now is that America may check the martial enthusiasm of John Bull by inopportunely pressing the Alabama claims, and so for the sake of a few millions of dollars the establishment of a reign of peace by means of a general European war may be indefinitely postponed. We can assure the London workingmen that America has no purpose of fighting over a quarrel which can easily be settled without fighting, and if they are really determined to thrash King William, provided our consent be obtained, we certainly shall not withhold that consent from any mercenary consideration.

Having comforted themselves by this assurance, perhaps they will be kind enough to reflect a little upon what we may call the sentimental portion of their address. "This inhuman and unjust war," they say, "which had its origin in dynastic ambition, is now carried on against the establishment of popular government in France. Republican freedom on French soil fights against the military despotism of a crowned invader. The workingmen of England echo indignantly the cry raised by your free citizens against this barbarous conflict, and demand with them that the sword of the Prussian despot shall be stayed." Now how much of this is true? There has been no attempt yet to "establish popular government in France." "Republican freedom" is not fighting against the crowned despot, because there is no Republic in France and no freedom either. The French people (not the Emperor only) made war upon Prussia in the wanton ambition of conquest, and they are fighting now because they are too proud to accept the natural consequences of their defeat. Not only is it untrue that the Germans are fighting against popular government, but they have offered the French every facility for convoking an assembly of popular representatives, to establish whatever government they saw fit, and the ruling authorities at Paris have refused, on the express ground that if the people were permitted to vote now they would not accept a republic. The Committee of Defense does not constitute a republic, and popular institutions have no more existence under the rule of this knot of patriotic gentlemen than they had under the Empire.

We too say that this war ought to be stopped—not, however, by the British workingmen, but by the French people. Its continuance not only entails incalculable misery and loss, but imperils those popular institutions which the peace orators are so eager to defend. If the struggle go on as it has begun, France may yet be forced to accept a king at the dictation of her conqueror.

A REMINISCENCE.

A friend was recently looking over a file of journals some thirteen years old, when he stumbled upon the following:

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE PENNSYLVANIA INQUIRER.]

DANVILLE, Pa., Jan. 27, 1858.

I learn that there is to be a meeting of the creditors of the Montour Company, in your city, on the first of next month (next Monday), at which it is thought an arrangement will be made for the resumption of work at their establishment here. Such a result would be hailed with joy in all parts of the country, and especially in this place and vicinity. The disbursement of money at this establishment, in days of prosperity, is very large; some twenty-five hundred hands are employed generally, and their wages range from one to two and a half dollars per day. I have been here frequently in good times, when this is one of the most bustling places in the State. Now it seems like Sunday, in comparison to what it did only one year ago. The Coal and Iron interests are suffering very much on account of the depressed condition of trade of every kind. Yours, &c.,
W. A. P.

—That was in 1858, you observe, when there was no "panic," no "pressure," no "revulsion," when we had very light internal taxes, and thirty per cent. duty on Pig Iron under the Revenue Tariff of '46. Twenty-five Hundred men standing idle in one Democratic stronghold, and all eager to get to work again at $1 to $2¼ per day. Just let the "Revenue Reformers" get the upper hand, and such spectacles will abound in many States beside Pennsylvania. If this is bound to come, we pray that it may be upon us *before* the next election for President. "In 1833," says *The World*, the Democratic party repudiated the doctrine of Protection, and were ready to follow Mr. Verplanck's lead—he being a lifelong, flat-footed Free-Trader. In 1873, it will be in just such a position as it held in 1833.

The custom in China which allows a criminal under sentence of death to buy a substitute, threatens to be raised from the rank of a national eccentricity to the importance of an international complication. It turns out that many of the persons executed for the Tien-Tsin massacre were not the guilty men at all. The mandarins arrested a few of the meaner criminals, carefully allowed all the rest to escape, and filled up the list of victims with substitutes who were quite ready to suffer decapitation in consideration of 500 taels a piece. Perhaps a more correct way of putting it would be to say that these useful gentlemen were hired of their respective families, at so much for the day, and returned after their heads had been cut off to be decently buried. They had the satisfaction of knowing that they could provide much more liberally for their wives and children in this way than any other, and by their vicarious atonement save the Government a great deal of dreadful bother. Of course the Western nations will not submit to be cheated of their demands by any such fictitious satisfaction as this. They are not to be fobbed off with counterfeit corpses. We are afraid the mandarins must try again.

Prof. Waterhouse, of Washington University, St. Louis, has addressed a letter to Gov. B. Gratz Brown, urging the adoption of measures to secure the immigration of skilled artisans. The time, he thinks, is propitious, the war which is now desolating France having driven from her borders tens of thousands of educated laborers. Ruin has fallen upon the industrial interests of France, and it will be a long time before they can be restored to their former prosperity. In Germany, too, there are thousands who would gladly fly from the calamities brought upon that country by the war. By proper effort, Prof. Waterhouse thinks, Missouri may secure a large accession of educated workingmen, and increase her wealth by every variety of manufacturing industry. With the advanced cost of foreign living and labor, in consequence of the existing war, together with cheaper breadstuffs, reduced taxation, and a more judicious tariff at home, the elements and conditions of manufactures in the United States will become more and more favorable.

The report of the Committee of the New-York Chamber of Commerce on the Pacific Ocean Telegraph contains a passage which we hope will not be overlooked. Without expressing a preference for any of the proposed routes, the Committee "insist on the vital importance of keeping any and every telegraphic line under the Pacific, or any other ocean or sea, as far as possible free from any exclusive privilege or monopoly." This is a sound principle whose importance has been signally illustrated by the experience of the present Winter. If Mr. Field had been granted a monopoly of the privilege of landing cables on our Atlantic coast, we should be cut off from telegraphic communication with Europe at one of the most critical periods of the present century.

What does the United States Senate propose to do in relation to a suit pending in the Sixth District Court in New-Orleans, wherein a prominent ex-United States officer brings suit against a United States Senator for moneys furnished, as is alleged, for the purpose of securing his election to the Senate? If the suit is just, does the Senate think its member fit? If the member is fit, should not his character be vindicated from the aspersions of the unjust suit?

Yesterday morning THE TRIBUNE published in its regular foreign correspondence, received by mail, the following:

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 14.—Every one was no little astonished this afternoon by the Imperial Manifest with regard to recruiting, for it was not known that the Minister of War had yet made his report. The manifest and ukase were signed yesterday by the Emperor and sent to the Senate. Although by the Russian laws a conscription is called a strengthened conscription only when it takes from seven to ten men in a thousand, and above that an extraordinary conscription, yet it is so long since more than four men in one thousand have been taken that this may be called extraordinary. This conscription should yield 200,000 men, but with the money exemptions it will probably give only 150,000. The previous conscription gave about 100,000.

Certain bankers and others, who fancy they can get better news by buying pretended "Cable dispatches from private sources," thereupon paid their money, yesterday afternoon, for the privilege of getting in manifold this enterprising "dispatch" from London:

St. Petersburg dispatches say the Czar's Imperial Manifest for recruiting a reserve of no less than 1,600,000 men causes much astonishment, and induces the belief that a conflict between the Great Powers cannot be long prevented.

Fools and their money are soon parted.

It comes out as rather a curious fact, that there is a good deal of lobbying and intriguing to secure the office of Chaplain to the Massachusetts Legislature. In one case, we hear of the wife of a clergyman who has been by letter personally soliciting members in her reverend husband's behalf. The matter was debated in the caucus last Tuesday, when Mr. Calley of Salem said that he liked the chaplain of last year, "because he made short prayers, a fact very acceptable to members in favor of a short session;" while Mr. Kimball of Boston was "perfectly willing to see the chaplaincy abolished altogether." It is a question how much moral or religious good is really the result of these regular morning orisons. Very little, probably, if the praying becomes the mere matter of form into which it is likely to degenerate; and we may as well say at once that we should have great doubts of the fervency or the effectiveness of prayers from a parson who electioneered for the office. Far be it from us to say that members of legislative bodies generally do not need praying for; but possibly this could be done as well in the churches. At any rate, we have never noted much good as the result of the prevailing process.

Women, in various parts of the country, continue to perpetrate acts of violence, such as shooting, beating, etc., upon men who have offended or injured them. Thus, at Richmond, Ind., last week, a Mrs. Shaw shot her brother-in-law, Mr. Brafford, but fortunately did not kill him. The affair involves numerous disgraceful scandals, which it is by no means our intention to reproduce. What we wish to point out is, that this sort of thing is becoming uncomfortably common throughout the land. It is still, however, exceptional; but what would be the condition of society if it should become otherwise? The bad impulses of man are certainly bad enough, and not a word have we to say in their extenuation; but the mania of woman is fiercer and more feverish, less likely to be controlled by a regard for ulterior consequences, and more easily stimulated without respectable cause or pretext. This moral and intellectual difference, in modern discussions, has been persistently and, we think, unfairly ignored by those who have loudly and volubly demanded what they call the "Emancipation of Woman."

Boston, in its North-st., has a locality differing not so much in kind as in degree from our own Five-Points. Noble efforts have been made to redeem from their degradation the wretched women residing in this disreputable street; and there has been some success, though no immediate and general success, in such an enterprise, could reasonably be looked for. On New-Year's Day the inmates of the North-st. stews were invited to a dinner at the Mission Hall, and there were 123 of them at the tables at one time. The report is that these unfortunates were neatly dressed, and that their behavior was marked by a proper decorum. It is among these, the lowest in the ranks of prostitution, that reform, if there is to be any reform, must begin. The inmates of the more decent houses, miserable morally as their lives must be, have all their physical wants supplied. They are luxuriously fed and handsomely clothed, and in this way the sure descent to complete ruin upon which they have started is kept from their frivolous minds, though the frightful last days and the horrible death, should they not be averted by charity, are predestinate.

It is rather melancholy to read that the South African "diamonds," after due scientific examination, turn out to be "lumps of translucent quartz." The best London lapidaries will have nothing to do with these worthless crystals. The mistake which it is averred has been made is not an uncommon one, and very large stones are always of doubtful value. We have seen it stated that the great Brazilian diamond, once the pride of the Imperial collection, is a quartz crystal, and that it is now kept out of sight and not exhibited with the other crown jewels. We give the statement in regard to the South African "diamonds" as we find it, without vouching for its correctness. Letters from that region continue to assert the discovery of stones of enormous value, two of them, it is asserted, realizing $600,000, while three adventurers, it is declared, made $750,000 in a week or two. But we listen to these tales with extreme distrust. The real judges of diamonds are in London and the Dutch cities, and it is easy for one who is not an expert to mistake a worthless crystal for "a gem of purest ray serene."

No interest suffered more by Confederate depredations at sea than the whaling service of New-Bedford. To understand how severely this fell upon individuals, it must be remembered that most of the New-Bedford ships are held in shares ranging from sixteenths to thirty-seconds; and that in many cases these are owned by persons of small means, almost entirely dependent upon the returns of the voyage for subsistence; while the crews also are paid by their shares of the catchings. We do not know how many of these claims are held by the Insurance Companies; but this makes but little difference, since those interested in the ships are necessarily interested in the Companies. A deputation is now in Washington asking the Government to purchase these claims, and to assume the trouble and responsibility of their subsequent collection from the British Government. It is reasonable to suppose that this might lend a little vigor to the diplomacy which threatens to put these demands into the same limbo which the French Spoliation claims have so long occupied.

The friends and admirers of Gov. Hoffman speak warmly in favor of the versatility of his genius. We are not surprised, therefore, at the circulation of a rumor, albeit based on no trustworthy authority, that the Chief Executive of the State will appear upon the boards of the Albany Theater this Winter. The piece chosen will be, it is understood, the spectacular play of "Aladdin," and the Governor's part—he is declared to be admirably qualified by long training