HOLIDAY OF GRATITUDE.

ITS OBSERVANCE IN NEW-YORK.

THE FEELING WITH WHICH THE DAY IS REGARDED—JOY AT THE FIRESIDE, AND WORSHIP AND PRAISE IN THE CHURCHES—BRIGHT HOURS FOR THE FOSTER-CHILDREN OF CHARITY—THANKSGIVING RECREATION FOR THE SICK AND IMPRISONED.

Thanksgiving Day is fast becoming the great national festival, and has already divided the honors of popular observance with Christmas. New Year's Day and Fourth of July have their special celebrations, which vary according to local custom and tradition, but Thanksgiving and Christmas—those twin gala days of Massachusetts and Virginia—have grown in general favor since the old colonial times. Thanksgiving, however, may justly be called the real "red-letter day" of the calendar, as it is becoming each year more a time for family reunions and pleasant social gatherings. Yesterday the sky wore a somber and forbidding aspect, the clouds threatened snow, and the wind moaned mournfully about the roof-tree, but these signs of outward gloom only added to the enjoyment of the warmth and comfort of the cheerful fireside, and prompted one to give thanks for those common blessings which are usually dismissed without notice.

The churches yesterday morning were thronged with people who seemed to enjoy a walk or a drive in the bracing wintry air, and the sermons were such as one would expect at this time—not outbursts of praise and thanksgiving alone, but containing many allusions to the grave duties and responsibilities of the hour. A grotesque feature of the day was the presence of large numbers of children in the streets who evidently believed with *Touchstone* that "motley's the only wear," at least the mythical Forest of Arden never saw such strange sights as did the sober streets of upper New-York yesterday. Processions of fantastically dressed children moved up all the avenues, their tattered garments flying in the breeze, and the vile squeaking of their tin horns coming up from the quiet streets. The engrossing topics of conversation on other days of this week were wholly put aside yesterday. After reading their morning papers people seemed to put away that specter of the political situation which has been present in their sleeping and waking thoughts since election day. For one short day the condition of the Palmetto State was not bulletined every hour, and the "bulldozed" parishes of Louisiana were consigned to temporary oblivion. Instead of the usual staples of conversation, were the queries of where, when, and how the traditional turkey was to be eaten.

But Thanksgiving is endeared to the popular imagination because it is essentially a home holiday, and all its pleasures cluster about the family fireside. For this reason the appeals of the poor always meet with a generous response. The children of the public are cared for at this season in a way which makes them feel that their foster-mother is not wholly careless and unkind. The waifs and strays of this great city are gathered and supported by many noble charities, which laboring quietly during the year, select this festival season as the occasion for showing the fruits of their work. To children and officers the day is one of common rejoicing, when dull routine gives way to unrestricted pleasure. Yet it is not only to these, but also to the many other charities for the blind, the halt, the lame, and even for the criminals, whom for this one day the city is willing to believe unfortunate rather than bad, that this day brings relief, enjoyment, and hope.

AT THE HOSPITALS, ASYLUMS AND PRISONS.

The inmates of Bellevue Hospital were cheered yesterday by a bountiful dinner, the feature of which was turkey and cranberry sauce. A large number of visitors were admitted to the institution, and nearly all brought gifts. Those patients who were able to be out of their beds were permitted to indulge in such social pleasures as suited them.

At Charity Hospital on Blackwell's Island, Dr. Daniel H. Kitchen, Chief of the Medical Staff, superintended the arrangements for enjoyment. The commissioners had provided 1,400 pounds of turkey, 200 pounds of pork, 3,000 apples and a barrel of flour, and these ingredients were all consumed at the grand Thanksgiving dinner. Dr. Kitchen also had four crates of cranberries cooked, and the sauce was served with the turkey. Charity Hospital had been thoroughly renovated and paluted, and yesterday every portion presented an attractive appearance. The training school for nurses that was started two years ago in this institution has exceeded the highest expectations of its founders. There are now 54 ladies connected with this school, 40 of whom will be graduated in July next. This will leave 14 as head nurses to form a nucleus of the next class. The neat, cheerful appearance of everything in this hospital is mainly attributed to the work of these ladies, and Dr. Kitchen hopes to extend this work to the other departments under his care.

At the Penitentiary, Warden Fox prepared a fine turkey dinner for the prisoners. He used 1,410 pounds of turkey, 50 pounds of pork, and 2 barrels of onions, and all the inmates of the institution were served with an abundant repast.

At the Lunatic Asylum, Dr. R. L. Parsons took especial care yesterday to make the occasion an enjoyable one for those under his charge. He used 2,040 pounds of turkey, a barrel of pork, 6 barrels of apples, and a barrel of flour. After the inmates of the asylum had eaten a hearty dinner, they were invited to a grand ball in the amusement hall. There dancing was kept up until dark.

At the Work house and the other institutions on Blackwell's Island the same cafe was taken to provide a Thanksgiving dinner for all the inmates. President Brennan spent the day on Blackwell's Island, and took care that all enjoyed a real holiday.

On Randall's Island, dinners of turkey and the usual accompaniments were provided for 250 persons in the Idiot Asylum, 275 in the Infants' Hospital, and 200 at the Nursery. At the Homeopathic Hospital, the Inebriate Asylum, Soldiers' Home, and Lunatic Asylum an abundant dinner was served to the inmates and a general holiday was observed.

At the Tombs at noon the prisoners were provided with an abundant dinner by the Commissioners of Charities and Correction. There was a very liberal supply of poultry and other food, and the inmates of the prison, although they might have missed the sociabilities of the table, appeared to enjoy the occasion. All were furnished with more than enough. Among the officers of the prison there was the usual round of duty. There were no religious exercises.

Within the walls of Ludlow Street Jail, both officers and inmates appeared to be in unusually good spirits. To the prisoners throughout the establishment the Warden gave an appropriate dinner. Mr. Tweed passed a very quiet day and had no visitors but his son, William M. Tweed, jr., and Sheriff Conner. An officer of the prison stated that he appeared cheerful and perhaps improved in health. Among the inmates of this prison the man who, judging from the number of his visitors, has the most friends, is "Dr." Flint. Upon him yesterday there called a large number of acquaintances, and he wore all day a smiling countenance.

AMONG THE CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

At the Five Points House of Industry there were the ordinary Thanksgiving exercises. The great feature of the day was the children's festival. The House supports constantly nearly 300 children, besides giving temporary assistance and instruction to many others. Yesterday there were nearly 400 children in its chapel, from very little ones wondering what it all meant, to children of 13 or 14 who took an intelligent interest in the proceedings. The youngest children were withdrawn early to their Thanksgiving dinner. The elder ones remained, taking apparently a keen interest in the exercises, which consisted mainly of music, until they were marched to their great dinner of the year. The music was somewhat complicated in its character for children, but was given very well. The chapel was crowded during the exercises, and at the end the visitors overrun the whole building, while the children eat. The children are not all white. They seemed, especially the boys, full of youth and fun. The House reports for the year more than 1,000 sheltered, nearly 500,000 meals given away, 3,700 articles of clothing, and 1,400 pairs of shoes given, but $9,000 of debt. One of the amusing features of the day was the outside crowd. A free dinner is always given on Thanksgiving day to all who come, and always there is a great crowd, very ragged, very good humored, and very full of fun, waiting outside. The Cerberus at the door yesterday was repeatedly evaded by anxious diners, but in good humor and not at all savage, he put on hard looks to force back the crowd. Inside, those who escaped him were met by a lady, and at her simple word marched back to meet the laugh of their companions, and wait again until their turn came. In all about 1,500 persons obtained a Thanksgiving dinner at this institution.

At the Howard Mission the regular yearly Thanksgiving festival and dinner took place. The main work of the mission is outside, yet a number of persons have been supported in whole or in part by it during the year. As with the other down-town missions, its chief work is with the children. Yesterday its dinner was primarily for the children connected with it, who gave recitations and songs in the chapel. Addresses were made by Alfred Taylor, Dr. Perry, and H. E. Tompkins, officers of the mission, and by Mr. A. S. Hatch, the President and for years a financial support of the mission. The little ones obtained their dinner early, the older ones later, and next the widows; after that the poor generally were admitted. This association claims that in connection with the Children's Aid Society it has been largely instrumental in saving children in the lower wards from vice.

The Five Points Mission gave a dinner to its children. In the mission school there has been an average of over 400 children during the year, while on this festival 800 children appeared, with more or less claim to be recognized. The whole work of the society is not represented by the children of the schools alone, as there has been much work done among the adults. A free library and reading-room has been kept open, families have been aided, and a large number of meals and garments distributed. The exercises yesterday consisted of recitations and singing by the children, and an excellent dinner to the children, the remnants being distributed to the adult poor.

At the Newsboys' Lodging House a dinner, or supper, was provided for 500 boys. The provision was ample, but the number provided for was not too large. Charles O'Conn r, the superintendent of the House, who seems to love his work and his charge, said that the average number of the boys lodging there was only about 250, but Thanksgiving was a special occasion, and it was not well to make the inspection too strict. He spoke with pride of the great increase in bank accounts of his boys recently, and of the good that was being done to them and by them.

At the Wilson Industrial School at No. 127 Avenue A, Thanksgiving was observed by an entertainment given to 250 little girls. The patrons of the school, as has been their custom for years, did all in their power to make the day one of pleasure and profit to their youthful and needy guests. In the morning religious exercises were held, then came several hours of play in the halls, after which dinner was served. This consisted of an abundance of good healthy food, and a large share to every hungry mouth of turkey and other delicacies. Besides feeding and amusing this bevy of little folks, the patrons and teachers of the school filled the baskets of 150 of the poorest of the many poor families in the neighborhood, and also supplied many needy applicants with food. The officers of the school render thanks to those who have so liberally given provisions and money, and thus assisted them in their benevolent work.

Turkey, plum-pudding, pastry, and all the accompaniments of a Thanksgiving dinner were placed upon three rows of tables, running the entire length of the lecture hall, at St. Vincent's Home for Boys, at No. 53 Warren-st., yesterday afternoon. After a few preliminary exercises, more than 250 boys, among whom were 50 small orphans and several colored children, began a vigorous onslaught upon the food before them. Very many were soon like Oliver Twist, asking for more, and, as the ladies and gentlemen present had provided an abundance of everything, every appetite was satisfied. At the conclusion of the feast, Father Drumgoole announced that Mathew Leary had promised to furnish the boys with a Christmas dinner, at which welcome news there was much applause. Recitations, singing, and an exhibition closed the day's entertainment.

The boys at the Sixteenth Ward Lodging House, at No. 211 West Eighteenth-st., to the number of 125, sat down to a dinner of turkey and plum-pudding provided by Theodore Roosevelt, one of the most liberal patrons of the institution. After dinner the boys sang several songs and were briefly addressed by Mr. Roosevelt and others. The festivities were concluded by an exhibition of sleight-of-hand tricks by a gentleman skilled in the black art, the performance eliciting many vigorous marks of approval from the Arab audience.

The Juvenile Guardian Society gave its 29th annual Thanksgiving dinner to the children of its industrial school, and also to those who have been under its immediate care during the last six months, numbering altogether about 1,500, at the society's house at No. 101 Eighth-st. Long before the appointed hour of 12, the neighborhood was thronged with the little ones, impatient to have access to the capacious rooms of the house. Their wistful expressions instantly changed into a joyful, complacent look, as they were admitted, and their glance fell upon the long table laden with the traditional good things of the time-honored day. Addresses were made by the Rev. W. P. Estes, of the Alanson Methodist Episcopal Church, the Rev. H. E. Hovey of St. Barnabas's Church, Brooklyn, and others. At the conclusion of the dinner, which lasted from noon until 5 p. m., a distribution of sick-room supplies was made for the little helpless sufferers unable to be present, and for whose succor the society has carried on a special department of relief.

The Girls' Lodging House, at No. 27 St. Mark's-place, gave a substantial dinner to 45 girls, whose ages varied from 12 to 25 years. Contributions of money and provisions were made by a large number of the friends of the institution, many of whom were present during the afternoon and evening to participate in the exercises. The evening was passed in singing, dancing, playing old-fashioned forfeit games, and other amusements. A feature of the evening was the piano-playing by Mrs. Collins of West Washington-place, who has been engaged by lady friends of the lodging-house to play at the frequent entertainments given there during the year. There have been 28,000 meals served at this place during the year, of which 21,000 were given to girls unable to pay for them.

At the Boys' Lodging House, managed by the Children's Aid Society, at No. 327 Bleecker-st., a bountiful dinner was given. At the first table 150 boys were seated, and as fast as places were vacant they were filled by recruits from the ragged and hungry urchins who collected in great numbers about the doorway. The supply was abundant, and all were provided for. Mr. Calder, the superintendent, said that until a few days ago he had despaired of being able to give the boys their annual dinner, but the publication of the fact that they were in need had brought them a great many contributions, and they had been enabled to take care of all applicants. The flower mission connected with the house has been very successful. The conservatory is filled with young, growing plants, which are given to the various institutions of a similar character throughout the city for the purpose of encouraging flower culture among children of the poorer classes. Seven thousand bouquets have been cut in the conservatory during the year, which have gone to sick rooms and to the cheerless rooms of the poor.

About 140 boys of various ages, bootblacks, newsboys, kindling-wood "bundlers," and boys of no occupation, were well filled with turkey, roast beef, plum pudding, innumerable varieties of pie and fruits, at the Eleventh Ward Boys' Lodging House. The managers say that their contributions have materially fallen off this year as compared with previous seasons, but thanks to Messrs. Booth, Hawley, Judge Van Vorst, and other stanch friends, the boys had a Thanksgiving. The day school of 250 pupils and the night school with 60 are in a flourishing condition. The pupils gave an exhibition last evening in the school-room, the exercises consisting of singing, recitations, declamations, etc.

The children of the several Hebrew societies enjoyed an excursion to the Temple on Fifty-fifth-st. yesterday, where appropriate exercises were held.

One of the happiest groups of children to be found anywhere yesterday was composed of the inmates of the Howard Colored Orphan Asylum, who were gathered at the Lyceum, on Washington-st., Brooklyn, to enjoy their annual Thanksgiving dinner, fair, and festival. This institution was organized in 1866 to supply a want which was met by no other charitable institution. Some children of colored women who came within the army lines were sent first to Washington and then to New-York. Some were accompanied by their mothers, who were unable to find employment unless separated from their children. The asylum in New-York refused them admittance, as they were not natives of this State. Mrs. S. A. Tilton of No. 104 East Thirteenth-st., New-York, gave them a home for a time, there having been 20 colored children in her house for more than six months. A house was afterward procured on Dean-st., near Troy-ave., Brooklyn, to which the children were removed, Gen. O. O. Howard affording them aid from the funds of the Freedmen's Bureau for one year, since which time the institution has been supported by private charity. In 1868, the association was incorporated under the name of "The Brooklyn Howard Colored Orphan Asylum Society," the purpose of which is declared, in the first article of the constitution, to be "to aid and instruct destitute children in this city." With limited means, and notwithstanding many discouragements, this institution has accomplished a good work during its short existence. This is largely due to a few energetic ladies who have taken an interest in its success, and not at all to widely extended public appeals. Some ladies, whose attention was called to the Howard Asylum, thought that a separate institution for colored children was unnecessary, when the Brooklyn Orphan Asylum was unlimited and had abundant means. Investigation, however, resulted in the discovery that the managers of the latter would not admit colored children, and that a white child had been turned out after a short residence on the discovery that it had some negro blood in its veins. The bright faces and healthy appetites of the children yesterday seemed a rich reward to those who have labored to save them from suffering and fit them for usefulness; and the variety of tints—from almost white to quite black—presented an interesting spectacle, even to the careless spectator.

The trustees of the Old Gentlemen's Unsectarian Home at No. 521 East One-hundred-and-twenty-first-st. provided a bountiful repast, consisting of turkeys, ice cream, cream cakes, pies, and fruit for their aged inmates. The president, W. H. Ramsear, opened the exercises with prayer, after which the old gentlemen were treated to a musical entertainment. The organ was played by Prof. Soleman. The principal feature of the occasion was the presentation to the trustees of an elaborately silver-mounted ballot-box by Mrs. W. H. Ramsear. After the names of the Rev. Dr. C. C. Tiffany, the Hon. Stephen Pell, the Rev. S. H. Virgin, and others had been mentioned as having connected themselves with the institution, the beneficiaries were escorted to the large dining-room, where they took their dinner.

At the Phelps Industrial School, at No. 314 East Thirty-fifth-st., a dinner was served at 7 p. m. yesterday, consisting of turkey and a few other dishes. The remainder of the evening until about 9 o'clock was spent by the children in playing games and listening to the remarks of the superintendent, Mr. Stoughton, and other gentlemen.

At the Home of the Friendless, at No. 32 East Thirtieth-st., a large number of children were given a good dinner in the afternoon, consisting of the conventional Thanksgiving turkey and other dishes. The Home expects to feed over 5,000 children, including those entertained yesterday and the beneficiaries, to-day. After dinner an entertainment was given in the main hall of the building by two of the schools connected with the institution, consisting of songs and recitations. Addresses were made by John Divine, formerly a pupil of the institution, and other gentlemen.

CLOUDS ON THE HOLIDAY.

THE RECORD OF CRIMES AND ACCIDENTS—ESCAPE OF SIX PRISONERS FROM BLACKWELL'S ISLAND.

The only thing that happened to mar the enjoyment of Thanksgiving by Warden Fox and the keepers of the Penitentiary on Blackwell's Island was the escape of six of the most notorious of the prisoners. It is believed that this gang had been planning this escape for some time. Keeper Bowles was very desirous of pushing some stone work that he had charge of in order that it might be completed before the extreme cold weather set in. Many of his gang, who were excellent stone masons, told him that they had much rather be at work than be confined in their cells, although there was a holiday allowed. The prisoners knew that there was only half of the usual number of guards and keepers on duty on holidays, and believed that their chances to escape would be excellent if they could only get their keeper to take them out to work. The gang were accordingly mustered as usual. They had been employed until about 10:30 o'clock in the forenoon, when the attention of the keeper was distracted for a moment. Six men left their work and sneaked away to the river's edge. James McCarthy and John Connors were the ringleaders, and Christy Daley, Patrick Brown, John Nolan, and Thomas Kilkenny comprised the remainder of the escaping party. They seized one of the guard-boats and rowed rapidly across the river to the Long Island shore. Just before they reached it their escape was discovered. Another boat, filled with keepers, pushed off after them, but the fugitives reached the Long Island shore ahead of their pursuers, climbed the wall, and scattered. Connors and McCarthy were captured soon afterward near the railroad track and were brought back to the Penitentiary. Keeper Foy hired a carriage and pursued Kilkenny and Nolan toward Flushing. Nolan doubled on his track and returned to Long Island City. Keeper Foy followed him and about 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon took him back to the penitentiary. Commissioner Brennan spent the greater portion of the afternoon in organizing parties and directing the pursuit. Kilkenny was heard from about 5 o'clock. Then, in company with Daley, he was seen coming toward this city. Both men had changed their prison clothing for ordinary suits, but were recognized from their description. Keeper Foy and four other keepers were ordered to cross to this city and see that all the ferries were covered by men who could recognize the escaped convicts.

Daley was sentenced on Dec. 28, 1874, to 2½ years' imprisonment, for burglary. Brown and Kilkenny were sentenced a year each, in May last, for larceny. The prisoners who have been recaptured will lose several months of commutation of their sentence on account of previous good behavior. They also will be fed on bread and water, placed in dark cells, and shackled with heavy leg-irons and a ball until it is thought they have been sufficiently punished for their breach of discipline. President Brennan stated that there have been fewer escapes from the Penitentiary during the past year than in any year before, since the institution was built. The police in this city, and also in all the surrounding places, have been informed of the escape, and are looking for the fugitives.

Shortly after noon yesterday an altercation took place in the tenement house at No. 14 Baxter-st., occupied by Mongolians, Italians, and negroes. Two Chinamen named John Fona and Tom Yee quarreled over a game of cards, and Fona charged the other with cheating. The accused Celestial denied the charge, and picking up a knife from a table stabbed Fona in the left shoulder, inflicting a dangerous wound. Tom Yee aimed for his antagonist's heart, but Fona dodged and received the full force of the weapon in his shoulder. The assailant was locked up in the Franklin Street Police Station, and the injured man was removed to the Chambers Street Hospital, where his wound was pronounced probably fatal.

The body of the man who was found drowned on Tuesday, at the foot of One-hundred-and-twenty-fifth-st., in the Harlem River, has been identified as Andrew Silvernom of No. 69 Union-place, Greenpoint, L. I. It appears that he had been out of employment for some time past, and became low-spirited on account of lack of work. On last Monday he left his home with his little son to pay a visit to his sister in Harlem, and having failed to get any assistance, told his son to go home and he would follow him. It is supposed that he then went to the end of one of the docks and threw himself into the river. Coroner Croker investigated the matter yesterday and gave a permit for his removal to Greenpoint.

Bernard Gilman, age 35, of No. 225 West Twenty-seventh-st., fell in a fit yesterday at Twenty-third-st. and Sixth-ave. and fractured his skull.

Jacob Rogers, age 36, fell yesterday in the hallway of his residence at No. 176 Forsyth-st., and struck his forehead against the staple of the door. Concussion of the brain caused instant death.

While a number of men were drinking and carousing in the liquor store at No. 589 Eleventh-ave. yesterday afternoon, an altercation took place between Robert Lusk, age 22, of No. 458 West Forty-seventh-st., and another man named James MacMahon. During the progress of the fight MacMahon seized a heavy stick and struck Lusk a violent blow on the head, fracturing his skull so that death is likely to result from the wound. MacMahon then escaped, but was afterward arrested and locked up in the Twenty-second Precinct Station-house. The wounded man was conveyed to the Ninty-ninth-st. Hospital.

THANKSGIVING IN BROOKLYN.

It would be a paradox if the inhabitants of the City of Churches were not a religious people. The day of Thanksgiving was observed in Brooklyn yesterday heartily and almost universally. In the morning the ringing of chimes called many Catholics to early mass, which was celebrated in all their churches, in some cases with special services. At 10½ o'clock, the usual hour for morning services, the streets were as full of worshipers moving churchward as on any Sabbath morning. Nearly every church door was open. The sermons in most cases touched upon the political situation, and in a number of instances there were earnest discourses on the duties of Christian citizens in the present emergency. The musical portion of the services was unusually attractive and interesting, in some churches forming the greater part of the exercises. Aside from the churches there was a general observation of the day, either in pleasure or in a quiet rest. Scarcely any business places were open. The various theaters were crowded both at the matinee and evening performances. Many took advantage of the sunny weather to ride over the new Ocean Parkway to the sea. The Thanksgiving tables of the poor were not forgotten. At the County Almshouse, Asylum, and Hospital, at the Truant Home, the Jail, the Penitentiary, the Howard Colored Orphan Asylum, and the various private asylums, bountiful meals were supplied.

PRESENTATION TO MAJOR-GEN. HUSTED.

The members of Major-Gen. James W. Husted's staff last evening made him a surprise visit and presentation at his residence in Peekskill. One of the gentlemen participating in the affair, under some pretext, sent for Gen. Husted to visit him at one of the hotels in the village, when the parlors of his residence were taken possession of by the storming party, who on the return of the General extended to him the compliments of the season, and presented him with a beautiful badge of unique design and exquisite workmanship, which may be briefly described as follows: A five-pointed Maltese cross in the form of a star, of chased gold. The central portion of the arms of the cross is overlaid with white enamel of the same pattern, and at each of the 10 points of the five arms is a small ball of burnished gold. In the center of the cross is a wreath of laurel and oak in green enamel, inclosing a figure 5, designating, like the five arms of the cross, the Fifth Division of the National Guard, commanded by Gen. Husted. The colors, blue, scarlet, and yellow, respectively emblematic of the infantry, artillery, and cavalry, constituting the Fifth Division, are uniquely intermingled in the design. The whole is surmounted by a bald eagle perched on a rock, with his wings hovering over the emblem of the Fifth Division beneath. The medal is suspended by a Major-General's shoulder-strap in gold, bearing the inscription that it is presented to Major-Gen. Husted by the members of his staff as a token of their esteem and respect, and to answer the purpose of a division badge. The presentation was made by Col. Ellis, Chief of Staff, and was appropriately responded to by the recipient, after which the party enjoyed the hospitalities of the General and a good time socially. The cost of the badge was about $300.

[The following arrived so late as to appear only in a part of yesterday's edition.]

A TELEGRAM TO THE TRIBUNE FROM SENATOR GORDON.

FEELING OF THE PEOPLE—THE DEMOCRATS TO BE ADMITTED TO THE STATE HOUSE—A MISTAKE BY MAJOR KELLOGG.

To the Editor of the Tribune.

SIR: I thank you for your invitation to send another dispatch. The last appeal of this trampled people must be to independent Americans, without distinction of party. If the transactions of the last two days are to be tolerated by the Northern people; if the courts are to be defied; if no law except force is to be respected; if sentinels at the doors of legislative halls are to review and reverse decisions of the highest judicial tribunals, as I saw done yesterday; if private citizens, partisans of Gov. Chamberlain and candidates for office, are to decide, as they have done here, upon the election, qualifications, and returns of members of the Legislature; and if these decisions, in direct conflict with the judgment of the courts, are to be enforced as is done here by the soldiers of the United States, then our people prefer a military government at once. I assure you such is the sentiment of the entire people of South Carolina.

To-day, in company with the Chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee, I called on Gen. Ruger and asked what action he would take if the Democrats should go into the hall and unite with the better class of Republicans in undoing the illegal action of yesterday. I promised that the Democrats would be entirely without arms even to a pocket-knife, and that the struggle would be a parliamentary one; that possibly some minor disturbances might occur upon the floor, or that the doorkeeper of the so-called Republican House might resist the entrance of Democrats even with certificates of the Secretary of State in their hands, but that no other disturbances could occur. His reply was that his orders had been misunderstood by Major Kellogg; that he had not intended to prevent members going into the hall, and that he would not interfere unless there was a disturbance and Gov. Chamberlain should call for troops.

Section 4, Article 2, of the Constitution says the House of Representatives shall consist of 124 members. Section 14 says a majority of each House shall constitute a quorum. A quorum, therefore, is 63. The Republican House claims to have organized and elected officers with only 59 members present. The Democratic House organized with 65, one a Republican. If Gen. Ruger will take the soldiers from the State House, the whole question will be settled in one hour without bloodshed by the joint votes of Democrats and Republicans. Fourteen of the latter to-day endeavored to prevent the illegal and revolutionary action of the so-called Republican House; and a leading Republican in the Senate offered a resolution to inquire into the legality of the former.

Of the 59 usurpers of the House 54 are blacks, 5 whites. The ascendency of such a power, even with constitutional sanction, would imperil civilization here; but usurpers and revolutionists as they are, if sustained by Federal power in defiance of the Constitution, the laws and the courts, they will bring ruin and chaos to this afflicted State. This is not government, but a conspiracy, yet under these great provocations the people remain peaceful and law abiding. J. B. GORDON.

Columbia, S. C., Nov. 29, 1876.

THE JOHNSTON COLLECTION.

THE BEST PICTURES.

REYNOLDS'S "THEOPHILA PALMER"—GEROME'S "DEATH OF CÆSAR"—ISRAELS—ISABEY'S "EMBARKATION"—DIAZ, DUPRE, DAUBIGNY—DECAMPS'S "THE SUICIDE" AND "THE PATROL"—THE "YOUNG ROMAN'S BATH," BY GLEYRE.

On the opening day of the exhibition of the Johnston Pictures at the galleries of the Academy of Design, a very large number of visitors were present, and the look of the rooms recalled the busy times of the recent Loan Collection. The pictures are well hung for the most part, and with the curious exception of the "Portrait of Allston" by himself, all the important pictures are seen under the best circumstances of light and air. The Allston Portrait is put where no picture, good, bad, or indifferent, should ever be put—that is, over a door. If a picture be a good one, it does not need to be said that it deserves a good place, a place where it can be seen. If it be a bad one, it does not deserve any place at all, and even indifferent pictures should have justice done them; they should be put where the little good they have may be discovered. This Portrait of Allston is certainly neither a bad picture nor an indifferent one, and even if it were a specimen of the artist's work when he was inferior to himself we have had too few artists of Allston's caliber in this country, that we can afford to treat them with indignity. This is not the first time that a notable picture has been not merely skyed, but sent up to the empyrean of a door top. This, however, has been the work of exhibition hangers—artists who had their innocent sweet games to play, and to have considered it too deeply would have been a waste of time and temper. But in the present case, when there are no reputations to put down and no grudges to settle, one may reasonably wonder at seeing a worthy work from the hand of a distinguished artist hung where it is impossible to enjoy it, or even so much as to see it.

This exception made, however, the pictures are fairly hung, and the attractiveness of the exhibition is equally divided between the four rooms in which the collection is chiefly hung. The "Slave Ship" is in the North Room, and placed in a light that makes the plate glass that covers it less of an annoyance than we have ever known it. The "Death of Cæsar," by Gérome, the Reynolds Portrait, and the Allston Portrait, are in the East Room, while the South Room has the Church's "Niagara," the Muller's "Death Roll," the Cole's "Voyage of Life," and the Brion's "Brittany Peasants." The excellent light of the Academy shows everything to advantage.

The "Portrait of Theophila Palmer," by Sir Joshua Reynolds, is a very lovely picture to our thinking. It is hung to disadvantage underneath the strongly painted "Head" by Couture, but the student will do well to look long at the Couture first, and allow it to make all the impression it can, and then "let his eyes down fa'" upon the moonlight face of Sir Joshua's favorite niece. At first the work of the English master will have a washed-out look, and a man might not be thought presuming who should say, "How easy to do such a thing as that." But, though it is not a specimen of Reynolds's work at his highest, being little more than a finished sketch, whoever studies it for fifteen minutes and comes back to it two or three times in the course of his visit to the gallery will find that whereas Couture's work has nothing in it but the painting, Reynolds's work is masterly painting *plus* a soul. This is a face of the utmost refinement and spirituality, without weakness, but with positive character enough. All the features are beautiful, but the beauty is of too high-bred and unobtrusive a character to make itself felt at a glance—the ear with its "convolutions of a smooth-lipped shell;" the mouth that seems to tremble like a bud about to be a flower, and "the least little delicate curve of a sensitive nose."

Gérome's "Death of Cæsar" is a picture so well known that description and discussion of it are almost out of place. But it may be interesting to note how often it happens in this artist's pictures, that single figures in them—the principal figure always—can be taken out of them and carry with them all the essence of the picture. The artist himself has shown us this, for in three cases he has himself taken the principal person from the picture to which it belonged and either modeled it as a statue or painted it as a separate picture. He took the Phryne from the "Phryne before the Court of the Areopagus" and made a very clever statuette of it; he did the same with the "Cleopatra" from the "Cleopatra before Julius Cæsar," though this was not so successful as the other, and he has made a picture which is, we believe, in the Corcoran Gallery at Washington, of the Dead Cæsar as he lies "even at the base of Pompey's statua," which picture is one of Gérome's masterpieces of drawing. It was said of it, and well said, too, that this figure is not foreshortening, it is perspective. Clever as these separate figures may be, the fact that they can be so removed from the compositions of which they make a part argues some serious defect in those compositions. You cannot so remove the Paul from the "Paul Preaching at Athens," nor the Eve from the "Creation of Eve," nor even the Archimedes or the Socrates from composition with so little essential unity as the School of Athens. Raphael, like Gérome, made a few clever statues, but he did not take them from his pictures. Gérome, in doing this, admits what is really true, that his principal figures do not inevitably inhere in the so-called compositions in which they are found, and if this should be admitted it would explain the fact that Gérome's pictures seldom succeed in making an impression as a whole; we are always studying and admiring the cleverness of their detail. "The Death of Cæsar" has an important defect to our eyes in the management of the group of retreating conspirators. They go out in orderly tumult exactly like the chorus of Druids in "Norma," the swords excepted, and we seem to hear their grand *diminuendo* as they pass through the practicable doors in the flat. But Gérome, if he is sometimes theatrical, knows how to avoid the commonplace, and the old Senator who, in his fright at the dreadful scene he has been witness to, has gone off in an apoplexy, is a rather striking invention.

Israels, a painter of the Hague, enjoys a great reputation in Europe, but we have seen little work of his that justifies it, or even explains it. There were several of his pictures in the Philadelphia Exhibition which were described by our correspondent in his letters, but neither in them nor in the one in the present collection do we find the artist either saying the things he says best, or saying what he does say in the way that has made him distinguished. In the cried slang of the studios, Israels has found a way to tame in the discovery of the sentimental, and he uses this art to raise the waters with so much skill that he has set on some quantity of barren spectator artists to cry too, and the business is found profitable. It would not be right to speak this way about an artist's work if the fact were not forced upon us that he has no special calling but to express something that without him would not be expressed; but after much hunting about he has found something taking to say, and intrenches himself in that as a safe position. This is not to say that as a painter Israels has not very valuable qualities, but the specimens we have seen of him in this country show him to be very unequal.

We like very much the Louis Eugene Isabey, No. 157, "The Embarkation." There is a deal of hurry-skurry in it; the wind is blowing, and everything and everybody feel it, the clouds and the ships and the waves, and the gentlemen and ladies who are descending the rough steps from the pier to the shore.

The Diaz, too, No. 42, the "Forest of Fontainebleau," is an uncommonly fine example of an artist from whose hand we in America seldom see fine works, and less and less of late since commissions crowded upon him in his later years, and he painted much too rapidly for his fame. This present picture was painted either at his best time or when he was producing few pictures. It contains all his qualities, and would be counted at home among the masterpieces of an artist whose good work is valued second to that of no one among modern Frenchmen.

The Jules Dupré, No. 161, "Landscape," is a good example of an artist whose work is much valued, though but little of it ever comes this way. Yet we have had a few specimens of him in this city, too few perhaps to enable us to think of him with the certainty with which we think of Rousseau, of Daubigny, of Troyon, or even of Diaz. He seems to us more of an Englishman than a Frenchman, and though his skies are brighter and his landscapes more smiling than those of Constable, he yet recalls that painter in a certain health and robustness without too much sentiment—characteristics that do not mark the other distinguished landscape painters of modern France.

The specimen of C. F. Daubigny, No. 54, "Landscape—Evening," is rather too black for our taste. This is, really, Daubigny's hour, and none knows better than he how to paint those yellow sunsets fading slow, those fringes of the faded eve, but this picture is not one of his most successful performances.

The two specimens of Décamps, 86, "The Suicide," and 142, "The Turkish Patrol—Symrna," are unequal pictures, and in very different manners. The Suicide is a well-known work—one of the artist's distinguished pictures, and was painted in his "good time;" the Turkish Patrol is a more taking work, but a more superficial one; likewise it is brilliant, animated, and withal not very interesting; a sort of show piece in which, as often with this artist, he is not trying to say something forcibly and in a way to be remembered, but to show us how cleverly he can say nothing.

The "Young Roman's Bath," No. 183, by Charles Gleyre, is a specimen of an artist whose work is not only rare here in America (the catalogue tells us that this is the only example known on this side the water), but rare even at home. He painted very few pictures, working over them until they were all perfect, finished to a finger-nail. The execution of the present picture is most beautiful, the drawing of the naked female figure is almost worthy of the antique in its purity and severity, but none of the figures have enough solidity; they seem to be woven out of the air. The accessories of marble bath and marble building are scarcely more substantial.

W. R. MORRISON'S VISIT SOUTH.

THE BEHAVIOR OF LOUISIANA DEMOCRATS—A PEACEABLE STATE AND A PEACEFUL ELECTION—DEMOCRATIC INFLUENCE OVER THE NEGROES—THE POLITICAL OUTLOOK GRAVE.

William R. Morrison of Illinois, Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, was in the city on Tuesday. A TRIBUNE reporter called upon him at the Fifth Avenue Hotel in the evening, and found him slightly indisposed from over-exertion in realizing New-York's "magnificent distances," for which he had complimentary words somewhat qualified. He remarked that when a man from the country like himself came to New-York, the utmost he could expect to do was to keep up with the rushing stream of pedestrians, and escape the imminent danger of being run over. He had been down to Liberty-st. to view the empty shell of what was the Democratic Literary Bureau, to which the good Democrat seems to turn with something of the reverence of a Moslem setting out for Mecca.

When asked for his views on the political situation, Mr. Morrison said he did like to have his opinions paraded before the public, for he supposed that he was a good deal of a partisan, and that anything that he might say would be set down as coming from a partisan. He was on his way to Washington to attend the opening of the session on Monday next. He did not think it proper for him, as a member of the House, to speculate publicly on the course he privately thought Congress most likely to pursue. He supposed that Congress would have some work of investigation concerning the election to occupy at an earlier date than the meeting of the Electoral College in February.

Speaking of his recent visit to the South, Mr. Morrison said he went on the invitation of the Democratic National Committee, and was ten days in Louisiana. He had been in New-Orleans two or three times before. He found the State in a more peaceful condition than he had expected. He had not been inclined to claim the utmost degree of purity of purpose for the Louisiana Democrats. He went South thinking that he might find that in some of the parishes the Democratic leaders had been ready to "go around a corner" to obtain a victory for Tilden. He left for home convinced that the Democrats had behaved fairly well, and that their case was much better than he had supposed. So far as he could see, the election was very peaceful, and he thought the Republicans did not deny that the ballots in the boxes showed a majority of between 7,000 and 9,000 for Gov. Tilden. He admitted that his judgments were formed almost exclusively on the statements of Southern men of his own party. He did not claim to have viewed the situation from other than a party point of view. The gentlemen with whom he was associated had before them at one time some thirty negroes, the spokesman of whom had worked for the Democratic ticket, which appeared to have had considerable support from the colored population. He considered it the natural tendency for the negro to yield, if not to the dictation, at least to the influence of the whites in their exercise of the right of suffrage. The whites, possessing greater will power, stronger, unyielding convictions, much unanimity of sentiment, aside from having the influence of property-owners and employers of the negro's labor, had an advantage over the negroes in controlling their political action which was potent and inevitable.

Mr. Morrison said it might be an uncharitable conclusion for him to draw, but he went South believing that the Republican leaders were fully intending to make out a *prima facie* case in favor of Hayes in Louisiana in any event. This opinion had been strengthened by his visit to New-Orleans. He believed that the men sent by the Republicans did not go so much to inquire if the election were fair as by their testimony to justify the course of the Louisiana Republicans. When asked if he thought there was any likelihood of a resort to force and violence, Mr. Morrison said very