

Amusements and Meetings Co-Night.

BOOTH'S THEATRE.—"Don't Drive."
LITTLE THEATRE.—"The American."
GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—"Black Crook."
LYCUM THEATRE.—"Richard III."

Index to Advertisements

AMUSEMENTS.—3d Page—5th and 6th columns.
BOARD AND ROOMS.—3d Page—4th and 5th columns.
BUSINESS CHANGES.—3d Page—1st column.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1876.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—The plenipotentiaries have announced that they will leave Constantinople should the Sultan refuse their demands; he will announce his decision on Thursday.

DOMESTIC.—The Senate and House committees took further testimony in Louisiana.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.—Much testimony was taken by the Congressional committee, showing that Mr. Hewitt's post-office had not been opened in the New-York Post-Office.

THE WEATHER.—THE TRIBUNE'S local observations indicate partly cloudy weather, with little change of temperature.

If Mr. Allen C. Beach becomes Controller, contracts will be scrutinized with a jealous care that has never yet been seen along the line of the canal.

The national awakening in England is due in a great measure to the powerful oratory of John Bright, who defends the oppressed Slaves as zealously as he upheld the Union cause in the darkest hours of our civil war.

Florida seems very likely to have a Democratic State Government. Gov. Stearns admits that the result of the election is put beyond doubt by the order of the Supreme Court, and, by his advice, the Canvassing Board will obey it, meeting to-day to make a new count.

The Sultan has now before him the demands of the Powers. They have disregarded his liberal Constitution, and declared that he must grant certain reform to Bulgaria and allow foreign forces to occupy that province.

If the views expressed by prominent business men in another column furnish any indication, the New-York merchants are fully awake to the dangers that threaten their trade, and fully aware just where the responsibility lies.

There must be some civil service in these parts that is not in need of reform. When a clerk has been in the post-office seventeen years, as in the case of one of the witnesses before the Congressional Committee yesterday, his father for more than half a century before, and his grandfather before him, it is safe to

say that the family has not been indebted to its politics for its places. This is a kind of hereditary distinction that the Constitution had no intention of forbidding, and if there are any heirs, they should step up to Mr. James's office and settle down for life.

Punch's plan to prevent accidents was to tie a director on the locomotive, but it must be modified to fit the latest case. A brakeman, who has been arrested on a charge of manslaughter, testifies that the negligence which brought on an accident and loss of life resulted from his having had no sleep to speak of for a week, his last trip having been 23 hours long.

Postmaster James conducts an investigation as well as he runs a post-office. The men who collect letters from the lamp-posts were instructed yesterday to empty their bags right on the committee table. Of these letters fresh from the hands of the writers, and beyond the possibility of any tampering, fully one-third showed the same peculiarities in sealing that led Mr. Hewitt to believe that his correspondence was systematically read in the post-office!

The best method for the dissolution of the solid South by a Republican President can be told in a few words—out of the carpet-bagger root and branch. It is a short prescription that is likely to take a long time to operate, but it bids fair to be effectual. An interesting letter printed elsewhere shows that in every Southern State there are great numbers of men now acting from necessity with the Democrats, who would join heart and soul in a movement of which this should be the first step.

After so many conflicting reports as to routes for a ship canal across the Isthmus, there is satisfaction in reading the conclusions of a commission appointed by the President to decide which route should have the preference. The Nicaragua Lake route, which wins favor from the commission, has been less talked about than its rivals. It will not require so grand an exploit as a ship canal carried through a tunnel in the mountains, but it promises to cost less for construction, both in money and in human lives.

Capt. Howgate of the United States Signal Service has had special opportunities for knowing what can be done in the way of keeping an observing party tolerably comfortable in localities exposed to the worst of wintry weather. He believes with most of those who are interested in Arctic discovery, that the true way to reach the Pole is to establish a permanent station in high latitudes, from which an expedition could be sent when an exceptional season offers opportunity.

In urging the return of the companies that have left the organization, the National Board of Fire Underwriters present strong arguments, and show a willingness to meet the seceders half way. Except in periods when all the companies are suffering from heavy losses, there is rarely much cohesion among them, especially as to rates and commissions.

In Mexico, President Lerdo is out of the field, and the contest now lies between Gen. Diaz and ex-Chief-Justice Iglesias. The odds are in favor of the former. His troops occupy five important States, in which are the National capital and the port of Vera Cruz.

Florida seems very likely to have a Democratic State Government. Gov. Stearns admits that the result of the election is put beyond doubt by the order of the Supreme Court, and, by his advice, the Canvassing Board will obey it, meeting to-day to make a new count. This sounds queer enough—this advising a canvassing board to obey the order of the Supreme Court of the State. But it must be remembered that the Supreme Courts down there are of a very queer kind.

The Sultan has now before him the demands of the Powers. They have disregarded his liberal Constitution, and declared that he must grant certain reform to Bulgaria and allow foreign forces to occupy that province. In case he refuses, they threaten to withdraw their Embassadors from Constantinople. All the Powers being sincere in adopting this course, the prospects of peace are greatly increased.

There must be some civil service in these parts that is not in need of reform. When a clerk has been in the post-office seventeen years, as in the case of one of the witnesses before the Congressional Committee yesterday, his father for more than half a century before, and his grandfather before him, it is safe to

increase, and yet the aggregate is quite large, and proves that invested capital has the whole been earning tolerable profits. Loans are only \$11,000,000 less than they were at this time last year, and deposits nearly \$6,000,000 larger, but, though the legal-tender reserve is only \$35,548,900 against \$40,762,200 last year, there is no apprehension. The number of changes announced in the mercantile world is unusually large, but many of these are but the result of losses long ago experienced, and the evidence of the reorganization which prepares the way for profitable trade.

On the whole, the people have pulled through the year with less suffering and less than was reasonably apprehended. Unavoidably, it was a year of exceeding prostration and many failures, because without such a period it was not possible to clear away the wrecks and the rubbish of the speculative era. Thousands of men, when the year began, were still "hanging on by the eyelids," crippled by ill-starred ventures years ago, lacking the capital or the faculty to recover position, and yet clogging the avenues by which others might advance to prosperity. The National banks were loaded down with bad debts, which, to the amount of \$19,719,026 in the whole country, and \$6,873,760 in this city alone—ten per cent of their entire capital—have been charged off.

In spite of all failures and losses, the bursting of many inflated bladders, and the weeding out of many individuals who overcovered the avenues of business, the year has been one of reviving production, of improving consumption, and of enlarged exchanges with respect to quantities. Because prices have settled more nearly to a solid basis, it does not follow that profits have been extinguished; on the contrary, lower prices have helped to a larger consumption, and larger sales, though with narrower margins, have on the whole resulted in moderate gains. Yet it has been a most trying year, because extraordinary political uncertainties have combined with financial causes to make business difficult.

But let us be thankful—we cannot, indeed, be too thankful—that Scovel himself has stopped the panic with a card. He has not declared for blood. He is as peaceably disposed as—if we may be allowed the figure—a sitting hen. Indignant he is, of course; rightfully indignant; his normal condition is that of indignation, and his emotions are, without exception, righteous. "I have felt," he says, "and do now feel, a righteous indignation against the bold and unscrupulous effort of 'Sitting Bull' Morton, Black Jack Logan, and 'Zach Chandler to count Hayes in and count 'Tilden out by means of the fraudulent 'turning boards of Louisiana and Florida.' This is bold and vigorous English. It almost makes us think that 'The Woodbury Constitution of last week' did have some excuse for saying he had declared for blood, he so manifestly has blood in his eye. But, as if aware that his characterization of the United States Senators as 'Sitting Bull' and 'Black Jack' might be misconstrued, he immediately adds, 'But I have never advised the shedding of blood in this contest, because I have firm faith in the sober 'second thought of the people.' And this we say is very gratifying intelligence. It will allay a great deal of anxiety and alarm. It seems a pity, a great pity, that Gov. Tilden did not hear of it in time to reconvene his guests at the proposed Christmas dinner, but that distinguished person is proverbially slow in the receipt of news. We are told that he is still waiting for returns from Florida. It will be a great comfort and consolation, however, to the visiting statesmen to know that the argument is not yet ended; that Scovel has not yet declared for blood; that there will be abundant opportunity for discussion, and that we may be happy yet.

There is a great deal of loose and foolish talk about "compromising" the dispute upon the Presidency. Some honest citizens who hate to be disturbed in their daily business of buying and selling, and who regard political questions mainly in a commercial aspect, are satisfied that the easiest way out of the difficulty is to allow each of the parties a fraction of its claim. Even Democratic politicians are not indisposed to agree to a sort of bargain. Gov. Hendricks is reported willing to exchange the Vice-Presidency for the mission to England, with the understanding that Mr. Tilden shall be chosen President by the House of Representatives, and Mr. Wheeler made Vice-President by the votes of the Senate. Newspapers of good reputation discuss such proposals with at least a tacit approval. There is danger that the country may come to look upon a compromise of the kind thus indicated as a safe and honorable solution of a troublesome problem. We believe that it would be a grave misfortune. When a knot of politicians can get together and dispose of the Presidency by dictating we are only one step from anarchy. Let this scheme succeed once and it is morally certain that at every subsequent election the defeated party will create complications in order that it may be in a position to make terms with the victors. Then the balloting will be a mere form. The Presidency will really be bought and sold.

Neither Democrats nor Republicans can honorably agree to any such compromise. The votes of the States have been cast. It only remains now to count them in strict accordance with the law. Whatever the result may be, the people will cheerfully accept it. The efforts of politicians now should be directed only to the work of ascertaining exactly what the provisions of law are and to a strict compliance with their every detail. They may next be turned to the devising of some plan whereby the imperfections of the present laws may be corrected, and the dangers through which we are now passing be hereafter averted, by the adoption of some plan of counting the votes which will meet with the approval of good citizens who desire not the success of this party or of that, but the peace, prosperity, and honor of the American Republic. It would be a great outrage and disgrace if the frauds of two or three returning boards

should impose upon the nation a Chief Executive who was not elected. It would be a greater outrage, a greater disgrace, a greater danger, if Congress should put up the President for sale as the pretorian guards used to put up the Roman purple.

The country breathes a long deep sigh of relief. The danger is passed. Mr. James M. Scovel of New-Jersey has not "already declared for blood." That gory warrior denies it over his own proper signature in a card bearing date Dec. 22 and published in The Camden Daily Post. It was "The Woodbury Constitution of last week," as we learn from the card, that set the terror going in an article in which the words occurred, "Scovel has already declared for blood, and others 'may follow.'" This at Christmas-tide and in New-Jersey was enough to create a panic.

There is always trouble in New-Jersey when James M. Scovel declares for blood. There is excitement whenever he declares even for claret, the merest crimson of the casual encounter. At such times New-Jersey puts its umbrella up and lays in a stock of court plaster and healing medicaments. But when in a great political crisis he "declares for blood," New-Jersey knows that he proclaims it in a deep guttural with a falling inflection and increasing emphasis like the thud of a guillotine, and that he means GORE. So when the mild-mannered householder, haggling for his Christmas turkey, dropped furtively into the ear of the pallid poultry dealer the casual remark, "Scovel has declared for blood," no wonder the terror-stricken marketman dropped his prices, sacrificed his stock, and rushed home to lock up his hen coop. No wonder a wall began to go up from juvenile New-Jersey, terrorized in the very act of hanging up its stockings; no wonder indeed that the country sort of quivered like, and that Gov. Tilden said to the able statesmen who were expecting to take a Christmas dinner with him, "No; gentlemen, this is no time for festivity; no time 'even for discussion; Scovel has already declared for blood.'" No wonder that the able statesmen hid them to the nearest saloon and hoarsely whispered to the astounded barkeeper, "Hot spiced rum for six! Scovel has already declared for blood." We can hardly believe that "The Woodbury Constitution of last week" fully apprehended the consequences likely to arise from its hasty announcement. If it did, we can only say that it deserves the severest reprobation. The offense of the mischievous person who cries "Fire!" in a crowded theater; of the man who says "Mad Dog!" in the street; of the light-minded young person who says it looks like a thunder shower at a camp meeting; of the pool seller who tells Mr. Tilden he has been elected, or the Alderman who tells a meeting of the Sixth Ward Democracy that our liberties are in danger—is as nothing compared with that of the newspaper which announces the week before Christmas that "Scovel has already declared for blood." The mercenary showman who scattered his audience by the announcement that the gynecus was loose was not more censurable than "The Woodbury Constitution of last week."

But let us be thankful—we cannot, indeed, be too thankful—that Scovel himself has stopped the panic with a card. He has not declared for blood. He is as peaceably disposed as—if we may be allowed the figure—a sitting hen. Indignant he is, of course; rightfully indignant; his normal condition is that of indignation, and his emotions are, without exception, righteous. "I have felt," he says, "and do now feel, a righteous indignation against the bold and unscrupulous effort of 'Sitting Bull' Morton, Black Jack Logan, and 'Zach Chandler to count Hayes in and count 'Tilden out by means of the fraudulent 'turning boards of Louisiana and Florida.' This is bold and vigorous English. It almost makes us think that 'The Woodbury Constitution of last week' did have some excuse for saying he had declared for blood, he so manifestly has blood in his eye. But, as if aware that his characterization of the United States Senators as 'Sitting Bull' and 'Black Jack' might be misconstrued, he immediately adds, 'But I have never advised the shedding of blood in this contest, because I have firm faith in the sober 'second thought of the people.' And this we say is very gratifying intelligence. It will allay a great deal of anxiety and alarm. It seems a pity, a great pity, that Gov. Tilden did not hear of it in time to reconvene his guests at the proposed Christmas dinner, but that distinguished person is proverbially slow in the receipt of news. We are told that he is still waiting for returns from Florida. It will be a great comfort and consolation, however, to the visiting statesmen to know that the argument is not yet ended; that Scovel has not yet declared for blood; that there will be abundant opportunity for discussion, and that we may be happy yet.

We take this occasion to thank Scovel for his noble attitude; for the calmness and self-restraint exhibited in his department; for his exercise of the virtue of self-denial in refusing under such provocations to declare for blood, and for the promptness with which he allayed public anxiety and quelled the panic by the explicit statement that he had not declared for blood. Nor can we permit the occasion to pass without acknowledging on behalf of a grateful public the great services of that patriotic and useful newspaper, The Camden Daily Post, in giving Mr. Scovel's reassuring card to the country at the earliest possible moment. It gave thousands of anxious citizens the inspiration and zest of a new pleasure to be able to add to their Christmas greetings congratulations upon the fact that Scovel had not declared for blood. We thank Scovel and The Daily Post. As for "The Woodbury Constitution of last week," we leave it to its own reflections.

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ROYAL AUTHORS ARE NO LONGER UNCOMMON PERSONS. In our own days there are Victoria, Napoleon, the Shah, Dom Pedro, the Bourbon Count of Paris;—and now appears Louis I., King of Portugal, who says that he is at least capable of good scholarly work by seriously taking up the task of translating "Hamlet" into his own language. He is a man of good mind, and is said to know English as well as he does Portuguese.

Gen. Dick Taylor is visiting Mr. Abram S. Hewitt at his home in Washington. The Mexican war has continued ever since with the one sharp interruption of the civil war. But their intimacy ceased in '73 when, it is reported, the policy of the Administration in Louisiana caused some unpleasant feeling. Gen. Taylor is very erect and slender with a marked military bearing, and his hair and full beard are touched by a goodly quantity of the frosts of time.

Mr. Simon Cameron has made his appearance in a new character. The negroes of Hilton Head have named a chapel in his honor "Saint Simon's Chapel." This is the way in which the "Pennsylvania" became canonized. In the Spring of 1865, just after the close of the war, a number of Senators, members of the Cabinet and other Government officials made a visit to Hilton Head, and Simon Cameron was one of the party. On Sunday they attended a negro church, and after the sermon the minister made an appeal for money to pay a debt of about \$500 on the chapel. Cameron became quite interested, and proposed to the Washingtonians to raise the money, he himself contributing the largest share. This was done, and the negroes in gratitude named the chapel, "Saint Simon's Chapel."

Mr. Richard Grant White is complimented by one of the London wits as an American who speaks like an Oxford man and looks like a Guardsman. A London correspondent of The Evening Post says: "A few Americans see England as Mr. Richard Grant White seems to have seen it, in all quarters and in all ranks of society, from the highest down; for one hears of him in all. He was the guest of peers and county families in various parts of the country; at Oxford and Cambridge he was received with marked attention. The Shakespeareans made much of him, and he was made an honorary member of the Garrick Club. He was thought to resemble a highly cultivated Englishman rather than the usual idea of an American. Alexander Ellis, late President of the Philological Society, whose great work on English pronunciation has made him the chief authority on that subject, is reported to have said of him that he could not be told from that of a university-bred Englishman."

Mr. Lamar, since 1872, has been in the habit of highly praising Mr. Carl Schurz, although many of his constituents have considered the clever German-American a Radical in disguise. Gen. Schurz's course this year convinced them that they had been right all the time, and they repeatedly reminded Lamar of it as he was "stumping" Mississippi during the autumn. Finally, at one of his meetings, some one in the audience interrupted him with: "How about Schurz, whose defeat in Missouri you were so sorry about? What do you think of him now?" Lamar replied that Schurz's course reminded him of an incident in his law practice. Sully Saxa was his witness, and he was making an appeal to disprove his testimony. Bill Jenkins was called for that purpose, and, being placed upon the stand, was asked what Sully Saxa's reputation was as a witness of truth

and veracity. "Well," said the witness, "I reckon it was about four years ago—" "Hold on," said the counsel, "don't want to know anything about me, but simply whether she is truthful or not—would people believe what she says?" The witness made several ineffectual attempts to tell his story, and at last, in a fit of distraction exclaimed: "Well, all I can say is that she is distracted of common sense and full of wit."

Mr. Charles G. Leland relates a story of the good minister of a Massachusetts village and a shifting, whisky-loving Indian, who in time of relief became one of his converts. The excellent minister greatly rejoiced at having "reformed another," while the Indian, on return, one night expressed with solemn joy his assurance, "Me no go Hobanoko (that is, perdition)—Injun soul save—all right." But the day after this affecting scene the minister, thoughtfully riding alone, discovered some covert lying in a rocky corner near the road, deeply, dreadfully tipsy. Sighting such and saddy the minister rode on, but was scarcely a rod from the spot when his ear was struck by a guttural grunt, which was solemnly and impressively repeated. Turning his head, he saw the Indian maintaining himself with the greatest difficulty in a sitting posture and gazing sternly at his friend, as if from the height of some great idea, while he beckoned to him as one having a revelation. Slowly the minister rode back and examined. "Cik!" grunted the Indian; "you know do little business, me talk you 'bout law night?" "Yes, Benjamin; I do know," was the reply. "It was about your salvation?" "Cik," grunted the minister, "me 'bout to get little business, me talk you 'bout law night, me added with a patronizing smile, as if wishing to diminish the clergyman's disappointment, "Injun berry poor concern—small talk—no great matter about."

our public ponds. He is fearful of being laughed at for his awkwardness by proficient but heedless boys. And therefore he denies himself the health-giving pleasures of the ice and gliding steel.

To the unskilled ones, at a season when there is more than the average prospect of hard frozen ponds during the Winter, a few suggestions may not come amiss. There have been very great improvements in skates in recent years, and several of the most modern patterns nearly approach perfection. It is a mistake to suppose, as many do, that a person who is awkward on skates is more likely to have a fall on the new-fashioned ones than on the old, deeply guttered runners. In purchasing skates it is best to buy the best. In the modern devices the old toe-strap is almost wholly unknown. A generation of boys and girls is growing up that will never go through the sad experience of their elders, of having their toes pinched by straps fastened with buckles. These happy youths will never know the misery of the squeezed foot when it became needful to tighten the straps and draw them till the buckle tongue would enter one hole higher. They will never experience the mingled feelings with which their fathers used to limp home from the skating-pond—the relief because the feet were no longer squeezed by the straps; the distress that still remained in the cramped and half-frozen extremities. If perchance a man of middle years has the skates of his youth laid aside in some dusty lumber-room, it is far better that he should leave them there. No greater mistake could be made than to take them now to a skating-pond. Let him buy new skates, to be clamped to the boots or shoes which he is accustomed to wear; and if he does not succeed as a skater he will, while on the ice, at least have comfortable feet.

The fantastic performances of skating experts are not so difficult to learn as many people imagine. Nerve and strength of limb are required, but neither need be in excess. After the skater has acquired the ordinary capacity for straightforward skating, he most needs a practiced knowledge of what is called outside and inside edge. At this stage many persons waste their time in trying to acquire skill in skating backward. They would save time by first training themselves in skating forward alternately on the edges of their skates. The simplest method of such practice is what used to be called "chopping bark" in a circle. The centrifugal force in this movement helps the novice; he soon learns to incline his body off the perpendicular, with his head toward the center of the circle. The art of using outside and inside edge for either foot being thus acquired, there is little difficulty with the long sweep of the "Dutch roll"—the most graceful of all the larger movements in the art. In fact, where the pond is not too crowded, there is nothing nearer akin to luxury on skates than the "Dutch roll" with a good partner. The confidence thereby acquired proves of great service when skating backward is afterward attempted; and if that be also practiced in a circle, the outside and inside edge backward may be readily learned. After that, all else is comparatively easy, depending more upon the time and patience that the skater is willing to expend than upon any intrinsic difficulty in the performance. Skating profers to Americans in general the most healthful exercise that they are willing to undertake, at the smallest cost. The dangers are few in comparison with nearly all other outdoor sports. Already there are not a few of our citizens that have noted the fact that their health in Spring and Summer has been on a higher plane than usual when they have had more than the average of skating in the preceding Winter.

THE SOUTHERN MEN who are impatient with the North because it does not lead their appeals for sympathy will find some excellent reasons for the indifference they complain of in the following paragraph of The Boston Advertiser: "When the Southern Democrats turn their faces northward and complain that they are misunderstood, we are prepared to tell them it is because they are understood, perhaps better than they understand themselves, that the Northern people do not trust their professions. The appeal to this civility is compatible with murdering men for a difference of opinion. It is a deed to think the massacre of unarmed captives. They appear to be contented. They appear to think that carrying an election by freighting all who are opposed to them away from the polls is an act to be justified. They appear to think the golden rule is not applicable to the relations between white Democrats and negro Republicans. They appear to think it is the part of good-citizens to obstruct the enforcement of the law when it enforces the rights of the Democrats. We are judging them by acts which are of record, as their partisan allies and apologists at the North would have it."

Mr. Redfield returns to his old position, that the only hope for peace in the South is a restoration to Democratic rule. In his last Southern letter to The Cincinnati Commercial he says: "What will be the result of the present complication in South Carolina? Those who expect to find any permanent solution of the difficulty other than turning the State over to the Democrats—that is, the white people—can deceive themselves. So-called Republican government is not an end there, and, if, perchance, Chamberlain continues to act as Governor, he will be powerless. What is such a government as his in South Carolina and Kentucky in Louisiana good for anyway? They cannot stand upon an honest federal protection is withdrawn, and with that protection they are powerless to command respect or enforce law. I had to see what good it is to come from a continuous line of attempt to uphold so-called Republican governments in those States. The reason that the Republican party is a failure in the Cotton States is because there is no white element in it except the office-holders. The blacks cannot conduct good government, and if they could I don't believe the whites would long submit to it. These affairs in South Carolina and Kentucky are a good deal of a mystery. They cannot stand upon an honest federal protection is withdrawn, and with that protection they are powerless to command respect or enforce law. I had to see what good it is to come from a continuous line of attempt to uphold so-called Republican governments in those States. The reason that the Republican party is a failure in the Cotton States is because there is no white element in it except the office-holders. The blacks cannot conduct good government, and if they could I don't believe the whites would long submit to it. These affairs in South Carolina and Kentucky are a good deal of a mystery. 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