drops; and, moreover, that two of the workmen have stated that a lamp was upset on one of the upper floors where powdered starch was stored.

January is the pamphlet month of the busy twelve. Every mail brings to the Editor's desk a dozen or more treatises fresh from pen, press and bindery. A large proportion of these paper covers relate to the silver question, but there is infinite variety in the topics discussed by the pamphleteers. Within twenty-four hours, for instance, there have been received at this office an index catalogue of books and memoirs relating to nebulæ and clusters, by Edward S. Holden; "John Bull in Italy," a warning in verse by "Ichabod;" "The Southern Policy"—a supplement to "Vaticanism Unmasked;" the Inaugural Address of Mayor Thomas A. Doyle, of Providence; "The Future Development of the New-York State Library;" "The Man and the Physician," a sermon preached in the West Church, Boston, by Dr. C. A. Bartol, in memory of Edward Hammond Clarke; "Good Words for the Working women of New-York;" Report of the Chief of Ordnance, U. S. A.; and many other pamphlets and volumes. All this goes to show that Johannes Gutenberg did not live in vain.

Where are the new buildings for Columbia College to be erected? Certainly not on the grounds now occupied, for there is not room for another structure of any architectural pretensions. The corporation controls ten acres of land on Washington Heights, but even with the most favorable conditions of rapid transit, the site would be very inconvenient. A writer in the current number of *Acta Columbiana*—the magazine is far more clever than its awkward title promises—points significantly to the ground now occupied by the receiving reservoir at Forty-second-st. and Fifth-ave., and suggests that a handsome set of college buildings would look better than a barren and dusty parade ground. "Then would our Law School and Medical Department join us," he exclaims, in a burst of enthusiasm, "and we should no longer be a college but a university, with the finest Scientific School, the finest Law School, the finest Medical School (and it is to be hoped that by that time we shall have the finest School of Letters) in the country." One thing is quite certain, the School of Mines will need a new building before long.

Dean Stanley never loses a chance to make a point on an anniversary. When called upon to preside at any meeting he always asks himself if the day is the anniversary of any great event, or the birthday of any famous person, in order to deduce some fitting lesson. On the last Saturday of the year he appeared at an industrial exhibition in London, and at once reminded the working-classes that that day was the anniversary of an event which happened 700 years ago, and which caused a great disturbance to the country. It was the anniversary of the murder of Thomas à Becket, in connection with whose life there was a circumstance which well illustrated the principle on which he was about to enlarge. People some times imagined that the small things they saw before them were not worthy of pursuit; whereas, in reality small things often deserved consideration. A story was told which referred to the father and mother of Thomas à Becket. His father, who was a Londoner, went to the crusades, and having been taken prisoner, married an Eastern lady. He was afterwards ransomed and returned to England, but he was unable to carry away his wife with him, and she remained in Syria. She, however, determined to travel to England—a difficult task, as she knew only two words of English, "Gilbert" (the name of her husband), and "London." She got through Europe by mentioning at every town she came to the word "London," at which place she eventually arrived. When there she made use of her other word, "Gilbert," and, having found her way from street to street, she at last discovered the house of her husband near London Bridge. This was an example of the effect that could be produced by making the very greatest use of whatever little knowledge one possessed.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

THIRD PHILHARMONIC CONCERT.

The programme of the New-York Philharmonic Society for the third concert of the season, given with great brilliancy and success last Saturday evening, was the following:

Symphony in C, No. 9	Schubert.
Eine Faust Overture	Wagner.
Serenade in F minor, No. 3	Volkmann.
Fall Scene from the Dramatic Symphony, "Romeo and Juliet"	Berlioz.

In making this choice Theodore Thomas departed from an almost invariable custom, for we remember very few symphony programmes of his which contained nothing of Beethoven's. The rich, bright, and various coloring of the four selections gave a glow and cheerfulness to the concert which contrasted charmingly with the somewhat sombre grandeur of the second entertainment of the series, and diffused through the audience an unmistakeable enthusiasm. There were certainly wide differences of character among the pieces, but the general influence of all of them was inspiriting: even the melancholy of Wagner's "Faust" was impressive without being depressing. The making of programmes like this is an art which few conductors possess, and few audiences, perhaps, think about. We have heard concerts consisting entirely of good music, well played, which, nevertheless, filled the listeners with dejection, and sent them away weary and dissatisfied, merely because the conductor did not know how to arrange his materials with proper regard to their effect upon the temper of the audience. Schubert's Symphony in C major is an admirable beginning for a feast, for it attunes the mind to a delight that is not exactly joy, and a content that is mingled with too much excitement for repose. How correctly Schumann, most cordial, sympathetic, and unselfish of critics, saw into its inner character when he wrote the loving and poetic review which first made it known to the musical world, long after the composer's death! Life in every vein, coloring of the most exquisite conceivable fineness, clear expression, sustained eloquence, the rosy flush of romanticism, and the refreshing evidences of abounding, inexhaustible wealth—such are some of the rare qualities which captivated Schumann, and have since endeared the work to all the friends of art. This and the fragments of the unfinished symphony in B minor stand entirely apart from all other symphonies and from all the other works of Schubert. Nothing could have been more beautiful, more loving and tender, more graceful and delicate, more brilliant and imposing than the performance on Saturday. The apt fancies so well touched upon by Mr. George Grove in his Crystal Palace Analysis, which Mr. Trettbar has reprinted, started out from the music with life-like reality. We too seemed to have heard the mysterious voice of the heavenly visitant moving among the hushed and expectant orchestra, and the glorious tramp of the horses of Apollo as they dashed around the universe with the dazzling chariot of the sun. Perhaps the execution of the "Faust" overture even surpassed the rendering of the symphony, for here we had to admire not only a brilliant and sympathetic interpretation, but the consummate skill with which Thomas unravelled the most intricate complications and gave emphasis to the most obscure phrases. The Volkmann Serenade was a fine exhibition of virtuosoship on the part of the orchestra as well as the solo performer, Mr. Bergner. Written for string band, with violoncello obbligato, it is practically a composition for the solo instrument, with a somewhat elaborate accompaniment; but for a certain freedom and variety in the introduction of several contrasted motives, it might almost be called a romanza. A close examination shows that there is a more perfect connection between the parts, changing frequently in rhythm, tempo, and character, than one would at first imagine. The solo is a consistent piece of work, containing in its first measures the germ of everything that follows, and the variations of figure are made by the treatment of the accompaniment. Mr. Bergner played his part in this charming composition with even more than his usual taste, care and finish; the string band, of course, was perfect. The bail scene, which constitutes the second part of the "Romeo and Juliet" symphony, is one of the most delicious specimens of the poetry of instrumentation which Berlioz, the great master of that branch of orchestral composition, has left us. Thomas's band of artists gave its delicate shades of color with a truthfulness that would have satisfied even French places of elegance, and they gave also what the most precise and careful orchestras are apt to miss in the interpretation of this sort of music, its broad dramatic character. Altogether, it was a memorable concert; and we thought that it left the audience in that cordial, friendly, happy frame of mind which used to prevail among the congenial frequenters of the old Mason and Thomas chamber concerts. Ah, if those pleasant days might come again!

BROUGHAM BENEFIT—THE PRICES, ETC.

It was hoped that by charging $5 for the "choice of reserved seats" at the outset, the ticket speculators might be routed, and persons desirous of securing choice places, and of substantially aiding the benefit to Mr. Brougham, might be accommodated. The final arrangements as to prices were yesterday made known. Admission tickets cost $1. Reserved seats can be bought for $2, $3 and $5, according to location. The boxes cost $25, $20 and $10, according to capacity and location. The box sheet is open to-day, and seats are for sale at the Academy of Music.

The Brougham Benefit Programme may be found in our advertising columns. It is of extraordinary proportions, much variety, and exceptional interest. Mr. Sothern, Miss Maggie Mitchell, Edwin Booth, Mr. Fechter, Mme. Modjeska, Mr. Gilbert, Mr. Beckett, Mr. Parselle, Mr. Coghlan, Mr. Montague, Mr. Stoddart, Mr. Collier, Mr. Floyd, Mr. Fred Warde, Agnes Booth and others appear in the afternoon. John McCullough, Clara Morris, Frank Mayo, Ada Dyas, Rose Coghlan, George Fawcett Rowe, Marie Gordon, Signor Brignoli, Frederic Robinson, F. F. Mackay, C. W. Couldock, Eben Plympton, Mr. Whipple, John T. Raymond and many others appear at night. The morning performance begins at 1; the evening at 7. Mr. Tissington, Mr. Wannemacher and Mr. Baker conduct the bands. There are no less than eighteen special and prominent features in this great programme, and more than eighty of the best dramatic and musical artists of the day will take part in the fulfilment of it. The occasion bids fair to be one of rare brilliancy. Its success is assured already.

Dr. Damrosch closed his season of orchestral matinées on Saturday. All the entertainments have presented features of interest, but the later performances have not been quite satisfactory. The difficulty of arranging a series of concerts of this kind, and controlling the heterogeneous materials of an orchestra is much greater than the public imagines; and it is no disparagement of Dr. Damrosch's ability as a musician to say that he has only in part succeeded. We presume that the chief trouble during the past few weeks has been the impossibility of obtaining the needed rehearsals.

A charity concert will be given at Chickering Hall next Friday evening by Miss Thursby, Miss Finch, the English Glee Club, and Mr. Pattison. The concert is for the benefit of the Presbyterian Memorial Church, and is the venture of three young ladies who have pledged themselves to raise $1,000.

PUBLIC OPINION.

The result in New-Hampshire is rather awkward for Mr. William E. Chandler. It is a case of overzeal hurting its own cause.—[Albany Journal (Rep.)

The people of the United States acquiesced in Mr. Hayes's installation, and they have seen no reason to regret it since. They are satisfied—and that ought to be the end of the matter.—[St. Louis Republican (Dem.)

Tilden is going to Florida. Why not have himself inaugurated down there, and set up a little government of his own? All the alligators and crocodiles would support him.—[Memphis Avalanche (Ind Dem.)

About resumption we do not think that a law should name the time for it; but as a law naming the time does exist, we would not repeal it. We think with the remonetization of silver resumption may take place.—[Richmond Dispatch (Dem.)

Mr. Montgomery Blair's bombshell has gone off, but seems to have done no damage to any one but himself. He is now politically *felo de se*—"one," as Blackstone says, "who, shooting at another, the gun bursts and kill himself."—[Baltimore Gazette (Dem.)

Even Wm. E. Chandler does not question the title of President Hayes, but he does insist there was a bargain. Mr. Chandler must be the man who made it, as everybody else denies the story, and he should tell us just what it is, or stop his nonsense. Perhaps William traded with himself and got cheated.—[Troy Times (Rep.)

None believe more sincerely than we that the President clouded his own title when he abandoned the legal State governments of the South; but now, every other consideration must be subordinated to the preservation of the peace of the Nation and to the maintenance in his place of the duly elected Executive.—[Rochester Democrat (Rep.)

While there is little doubt that the recital in Mr. Blair's memorial is in the main correct, and no doubt whatever that Mr. Hayes's installation was due entirely to the success of a villainous partisan conspiracy to give effect to returning board certificates known to be false, the effort to unseat him by any judicial procedure will undoubtedly be futile.—[Buffalo Courier (Dem.)

A NEW COIN OF THE FUTURE.

From The Cincinnati Gazette.

Samuel S. Cox, of New-York, has introduced a sensible silver bill. It is to coin silver half dimes and abolish the nickels. We are for Mr. Cox. Then let him introduce a bill to substitute a coin for the debased three-cent piece, which is in diameter and thickness so near like a dime that only clear light can show the difference. Let us have a special silver coin for this three-cent piece, which is the beer coin of the future.

IN FAVOR OF HARMONY.

From The Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

THE NEW-YORK TRIBUNE is authority for the statement that the President will send no new nominations to the Senate for the New-York Custom House places, his paramount desire being the peace and harmony of the Republican party, in order that Republican strength may be consolidated against the Bland Silver Bill. If this dispatch is to be relied upon, it is the best news that has come over the wires for many a day, and will materially appreciate the President in the esteem of all earnest and honest Republicans. If such sentiments shall inspire his action, we need not fear any serious Republican revolt from his Administration.

WHAT PENDLETON STANDS FOR.

From The Cincinnati Enquirer.

The Ohio idea will now be represented in the Senate of the United States for the first time since this great currency question arose in our politics. It will be ably represented. There are no Ohio lips abler than his to tell Ohio's story. The wail of the poor will find a voice in the unselfish man of wealth, and the plea of the unlettered will be clothed in the eloquence of the man of culture. Above all, a Democratic vote in the United States Senate is gained, and it is a known vote for the people.

GENERAL EWING DECLARES WAR ON THE EASTERN DEMOCRACY.

From his Speech at Columbus.

The people carried the House two years ago, and would have had relief; but the facile tools of the money power (and, I am sorry to say, they were in the Democratic party) packed the committees to prevent action in the House. In this House we are better off. We have passed bills to restore the silver dollar, and to repeal that hellish invention of usurers, the resumption act. They lie in the Senate, awaiting another victory of the people. The great struggle is to come—to establish the principle that the money of the people shall be issued by the people's government, and not by national bankers. But the people's cause will never be won by compromises—by asking what Wall-st wants on one hand, or the West and South on the other; but it is necessary let New-Jersey, New-York, and New-England go. [Loud and prolonged cheers.] Why, we saw from that section twenty-six votes against the people's money, while beginning with Pennsylvania, the Democracy of all the West and South declared for the rights of the people. That shows where the Democracy is. The Democracy is the champion of the people. Ohio led in 1867, and has brought the West to her side. Let her remain constant, and she will lead the Democracy to a glorious victory in 1880. It is the cause and money of the people, against the moneyed oligarchy of the East. I shall be found fighting the battles of the people, and expect from the Democracy of Ohio all fidelity and support. [Great applause continuously repeated.]

THE ROOT OF THE OWL.

From The New-York Commercial Advertiser.

Mr. Buckner threatens to tack the Bland proposition to one of the Civil Appropriation bills, to force the President to approve it at the peril of losing his own salary. And if this be the last and only hope of the silver schemers, the game is certainly up with them. The President was not born in the woods, to be scared by the hootings of the Spirit of an owl, and, fortunately, neither he nor his official household are in pressing need of their salaries. They could wait, as our gallant army recently had to wait, on such opposition "cussedness."

THE INDIAN BUREAU.

EX-COMMISSIONER SMITH ON SCHURZ.

"THE LOGIC OF THE BOARD ABOUT ON A PAR WITH THE SECRETARY'S SENSE OF JUSTICE."

Letter to the Editor of The Cincinnati Gazette.

In your paper of this date is published a lengthy synopsis of the report of the Board of Inquiry appointed by the Secretary of the Interior to investigate the Indian Office. As this report reflects to some extent on my administration of that office, as well as upon me personally, I trust you will permit me to make through your columns a brief statement. This board, consisting of three clerks, was appointed by the Secretary on or about the 7th of June last to investigate the truthfulness of certain specific charges against Mr. Galpin, chief clerk of the office. The investigation afterward took a wider scope, extending to all the affairs of the office. This board sat with closed doors, and the witnesses were pledged to the most profound secrecy. The evidence was put in type from day to day for a long period, but was vigilantly kept from me, and although I more than once asked of the board and of the Secretary that I should be informed of any evidence reflecting in any way on my integrity or efficiency as an officer, and was repeatedly and emphatically assured by the Secretary that there had been no such evidence submitted, and, should there be any, that he would at once notify me and afford me the fullest opportunity to answer, the publication of this report is the first information I have had on the subject. I have never before had an intimation or suggestion that any act of mine, of omission or commission, was made a matter of censure, or required any explanation or defence, notwithstanding I was recently in Washington, and was called before the board to testify in relation to a charge against Mr. Galpin. Imagine my surprise, after having this unqualified promise from the Secretary, to find lengthy extracts given to the public by this same Secretary from the report of the board, which contained a labored attack upon my administration of the Indian Office, as the result of a secret ex parte inquiry, extending through seven long, long months. I do not pretend to say that an honest and fair investigation of my administration would not develop the fact that mistakes had been made; but I appeal to all fair-minded men whether any conclusion of an investigation made in this way is worthy of public respect, or whether the character of any public man is safe when he can be assassinated in this way by order of a superior officer? It is not my purpose in this note to attempt any answer to the criticisms and censure of the Board of Inquiry. It is stated that the report "is a very elaborate and voluminous document, making sixty-five printed pages, exclusive of testimony."

Before I undertake to answer the accusations contained in it, I wish to see the whole of this precious document. I have written to the Secretary of the Interior to request a copy, and trust that after he and his board have done me all the damage they can by publishing broadcast over the land their ex parte conclusions reflecting upon me, I may kindly be permitted to see the evidence on which their conclusions are based. In regard to that part of the report published in your paper, I have simply to say that some of the statements are perhaps true, some of them are distorted and twisted perversions of the truth, and some of them are absolutely false. But what else could have been expected of an investigation conducted on such principles—so violative of every principle of fairness, and so grossly un-American that I think it has no precedent, and trust it will never be repeated? I am charged by the board with trying to evade something, I know not what, because I simply insisted on being informed whether they had received any accusations against me. The logic of the board is about on a par with the Secretary's sense of justice. The report has been given the widest possible circulation. May I not reasonably ask of all fair-minded editors who have published it to insert in their papers this brief note?

Very respectfully, J. Q. SMITH.

Oakland, Cal., Jan. 8, 1878.

If you would ascertain the number of miles of railroad, earnings, and dividends of the railroads of the United States, divided into sections, comparing the New-England railroads with those of the Middle, Western, Southern and Pacific States, and with the Pacific Railroads, consult the TRIBUNE ALMANAC FOR 1878.

REFORM IN FRANCE.

IMPORTANT CHANGES EXPECTED.

RADICAL REFORMS NEEDED IN THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS—CONSERVATISM STILL STRONG—PROTECTION, FREE TRADE AND POPULAR EDUCATION COMING UP FOR CONSIDERATION—M. WADDINGTON AND THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS—M. FREYCINET'S QUALIFICATIONS.

[FROM A REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

PARIS, Dec. 21.—Though there is such a feeling of satisfaction all over the land since the formation of the new Ministry, it must not be supposed that, according to the familiar phrase, things are to "go upon wheels" in every direction. Let what will be done, there are one or two departments in which fundamental difficulties will make themselves perceivable almost at once; and there is one predominant embarrassment that it is next to impossible should not be felt by the whole Government in general. This is the embarrassment occasioned by the dilemma from the horns whereof it is terribly hard for any Cabinet to escape, namely, either reform or universal discontent, leading to universal unpopularity. Reforms are called for in every branch of Administration in France, and the modern spirit, so rapidly growing up, has been for seven years impatient of delay. There is no one country in Europe, excepting only Spain, which is not in the enjoyment of rights and immunities, of which France hears vaguely but the name, and we must never forget that the very "Belleville Programme" itself, the object of such holy horror on the part of French retrogradism, was simply a list of the ordinary liberties won and worn now by nearly all European communities. The separation of Church and State was the sole gain unachieved by France's neighbors, and which (were all the others obtained) would be the least urgent. But while among French Liberals it is felt to be a humiliation that the country should be so behind all others in regard to modern reforms, let it be well noted that the entire monarchical world, with the clerical and tradition-enslaved classes, are as violently opposed to any innovation, of even the mildest kind, as they have just shown themselves violently eager for despotism and personal power.

This conflict will and must make itself felt from the first hour when the new Ministers begin to attempt the slightest step in the road toward improvement, and the public will need to take patience, and not ask for too much till the moment when, just one twelvemonth hence, the Senatorial elections will restore proper equilibrium to the whole governing machine and put the Senate in harmony with the Chamber of Deputies. Now, this, I repeat, is the dilemma which produces already a general embarrassment; but its particular manifestations will occur principally in two or three Ministries. At the Home Office things will go smoothly enough, for there it is more a question of men than of measures; and, with the sweeping changes made in the provincial administration, there will come a sort of lull in public feeling, and if the new Prefects and Sub-Prefects are at all equal to their work, we may hear of no complaints on that side for the next year or eighteen months. But this will neither be the case at the Ministry of Public Instruction or at that of Commerce. At the former we shall probably witness almost at once the outbreak of war between the Clericals and the Laity and at the latter, the contest will be between Protection and Free Trade. Both will be fierce, but the real battle will rage at the Foreign Office. There the task set before the new Minister is in truth an appalling one. Unless France is to be left the inferior of every country in Europe, uninformed, discarded, undefended from all her neighbors, every vestige of routine must be made to disappear from the musty, mouldy bureau of "Foreign Affairs," and hardly one individual now employed there ought to be allowed to remain where he is. This department has been a standing evil since 1815, and the greatest reproach made by those who know what they are talking about, is that made to M. Thiers, for not having resolutely put the broom to these Augean stables in 1871. He ought to have done, and could have done it with ease then, instead of which, resisting the unanimous public clamor, he literally made matters worse by his tolerance of abuses, and his worse than foolish appointments. The hour for easy reform went by—and now, though reform is more imperatively called for than ever, it is certainly no longer easy to achieve. However, here there may be seen emphatically the "right man in the right place," and, though he may find the task a hard and a remarkably unpleasant one, M. Waddington, it may be relied upon, is the man to perform it conscientiously. Your readers may, perhaps, remember that nearly two years ago the TRIBUNE was the first organ of public opinion to foreshadow the career of Waddington in France. I spoke of him at that time as the one man of this country, the man who would set his mark upon the Republic, and probably win the name of the Savour of France. By the curious instinct communities have of their own needs, this feeling has been growing up everywhere, precisely during the period when the object of it was precluded by circumstances from giving any public or predominant sign of self-assertion. After the double elections of the 14th of October and 4th of November had secured the existence of the Republic, the first name that was on all lips was that of Waddington. In the beginning it was thought he must be President of the Council, and there are some who say that the Marshal's first notion was to send for him when circumstances imposed M. Dufaure. But already at the Foreign Office the dread of Waddington was lively and strong, and the heads of sections were already whispering to their intimates: "You will see that we shall fall victims to that Protestant!"

Now, the amusing part of it was that M. Waddington himself resisted so cordially all attempts to take him away from his beloved Public Instruction Department, that he became angry when even an allusion was made to the Foreign Office, his plan being that his own particular friend, M. de Saint Vallier should be Foreign Minister. However, according to the Oriental creed that no man can resist his fate, Waddington was forced to yield on account of an incident personal to the Marshal, and found it impossible to avoid leading the foreign policy of France. The "incident" was this: Public opinion having long and persistently condemned all the diplomatic agents of France abroad, the first necessity was that they should all be displaced. The Marshal, however, was so obstinate about the retention in London, as Ambassador, of his cousin, M. d'Harcourt, that no compromise could be come to with him upon that score. To either, M. de Saint Vallier would have had to keep a Representative whom he resolutely opposed as incapable and unsafe, or the Chief of the State must abandon the sole demand which at the last moment he preferred. M. Waddington was obliged to accept, and did so, wholly against his own will. But public opinion almost always judges better a man's capacities than he judges them himself, so, for the undeniable benefit of France and Europe, there stands now at the head of the foreign relations of the French Nation a man whom European nations respect and trust and who is devoted to peace. Now, so strangely has this confidence in the quietest, least communicative of men rooted itself in the public mind that, in the lobbies of the Chamber at Versailles, on the last day but one of the session, large groups of Deputies and Senators, who were discussing the merits of possible future Presidents of the Republic felt almost to a man united on the name of Waddington, as the unavoidable one. "Yes! he has been called the Cavour of France—and may very likely be so!" exclaimed Léon Renault, who was passing before one of the groups in question. I dwell somewhat upon this subject, because it is always important to know thoroughly who the coming men are in a country which, above all like France, may exercize so tremendous an influence upon the tranquillity of the entire continent of Europe.

The man whom next to Waddington it is necessary to study, is the new Minister of Public Works, M. de Freycinet. He is perhaps preëminently the most unequivocally modern man of the Nation—he might be an American. Although silent and reserved in character, he is promptitude itself in action, and never recognizes a difficulty where an obvious advantage is to be attained. To him, as well as to Gambetta, are to be ascribed all those "improvisations" of resistance during the war of 1870, that since that epoch have met with such admiration from the German authorities and among all liberal military men (not Bonapartist or clerical). His name is mentioned only with the deepest, most unqualified respect. Under this man's direction the means of transport and communication in France will be so rapidly planned and executed that her proper place by England's side, as the second industrial and commercial power in Europe, may be reached in an incredibly short time, and on this hangs far more than might be supposed at first. When the Empire in 1860 went in for free trade, M. Rouher promised such a network of railways, roads, canals, bridges, and ports as would have enabled France to compete with her neighbors on every side; but the necessities of the Empire, in a dynastic point of view, became such that nothing of all these fine promises could be performed. Here is the void to be filled up, and M. de Freycinet may be relied upon to labor untiringly till the end is achieved.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

GOVERNOR ROBINSON AND THE LAW.

LETTER FROM THE REV. DR. CROSBY.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: *The Evening Post*, of Friday, very properly characterized the Governor's commutation of Cosgrove's and Eustace's sentence as "unfortunate clemency." To show what an encouragement it must be to law-breakers, let me give the facts:

1. Cosgrove and Eustace plead guilty of keeping each an illegal groggery, and are lightly fined, with the Recorder's declaration to them that, if they are convicted again, he will sentence them to a year's imprisonment.

2. They continue to sell illegally, one of them telling the Excise Commissioners to their faces that he shall sell in spite of the law. They are again arrested and convicted. The Recorder comments on the enormity of their offence, and sentences them to one and two months' imprisonment.

3. Governor Robinson interferes, and orders no imprisonment.

Now, when you consider that these men kept bucket-shops of the worst sort, that they never had a license of any kind, that they boldly defied the law after it had been expounded to them by the court, and that they had no mitigating circumstances whatever, you will see what chance law has in New-York. How long will the people of New-York stand this? Yours with respect, HOWARD CROSBY.

New-York, Jan. 12, 1878.

PROSECUTIONS FOR OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS

THE CHARGE AGAINST MR. BENNETT.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: THE TRIBUNE, I am sure, cannot mean to be unfair. It has not been in all the nearly forty years I have been a reader of and occasional writer for it. I was not defending "the right to send obscene matter through the mails." I was defending the general principle of freedom of the press, violated by the arrest of Mr. Bennett, Editor of *The Truth Seeker*; and the result of the prosecution justifies my defence. The charge of obscenity against him was so manifestly untenable that District-Attorney Woodford would not press it; and last Saturday, the 5th inst., the suit was withdrawn without trial, and all proceedings were dismissed. Mr. Bennett was ready with his defence, and contributions from liberals all over the country were pouring in to back him up with means. Finding that he has no case and cannot succeed in a direct attack, the complainant has subsided into indirect methods of annoyance, as the manner of such is and has been all along the path of history. Friends and sympathizers who had wished to give Mr. Bennet the influence of their names are intimidated and induced to withdraw their support. Strife is fomented, and prosecutions on side issues are threatened.

The Massachusetts case, Comstock against Heywood, is resulting the same way—or rather, the tables are turned and Mr. Heywood is prosecuting Comstock for damages. Both these gentlemen, selected to be tried on obscene charges, are editors of newspapers with thousands of subscribers, who order and pay for their papers because they like the morals taught and the principles inculcated. These editors are not dealers in obscene literature. They are at the head of concerns running and established for years, and the charge of obscenity is now heard for the first time, under the ruings of the new inquisition. Both these prosecutions were sheer, unmitigated acts of tyranny, without the shadow of fact or justice for their foundation. In both "obscenity" was attempted to be stretched to cover attacks on current creeds and social abuses, very sharp and vigorous no doubt, but no more obscene than the essays and discussions in *The Christian Advocate* or *Observer*—that is to say neither are obscene.

Perhaps my defence was a little impassioned, but much can be forgiven to the spirit of liberty. A rhetoric born of indignation at acts of oppression is apt to be "florid." There was a good deal of it, in '76, running through the declarations of the "daddies," and, in view of an attempted renewal of the old struggle between freedom of thought and repression, this is a good year to revive some modifications of the style.

New-York, Jan. 11, 1878. THERON C. LELAND.

[On Mr. Leland's statement of the facts, he was clearly justifiable in using rhetoric as "florid" as he pleased.—*Ed.*]

THE CHARTER OAK.

CARD FROM H. J. FURBER.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: In your issue of this morning you publish a communication in relation to the Charter Oak Life Insurance Company, and in an editorial notice call upon the persons mentioned in that and previous communications from the same correspondent, to respond to the charges therein made. As my name is frequently mentioned in both communications, I feel that I am one of the persons to whom your editorial is addressed. In reply to any charges against me or my management, whether made directly, or by implication or inference, I will state:

First—Neither Mr. Wiggin nor Mr. White, either or both of them, ever received any money or valuable thing from the Charter Oak Life Insurance Company, either directly or indirectly, during my connection with it, over and above their regular salaries, which were paid monthly, and charged as such on the books of the company. No commission or commissions were ever paid to either of them, or to any other person for or on account of either of them.

Second—I never received from the company, either directly or indirectly, any money or other valuable thing over and above my regular salary, except such as was regularly charged to me on the books of the company, and accounted for and settled by me with the present officers and directors, which settlement, as stated in the communication referred to, was first submitted to and approved by the Insurance Committee, after having been approved as to its legality by eminent counsel.

Third—As regards my administration of the affairs of the company, I desire to call attention to the figures, furnished by me to the press on August 15, 1877:

RECAPITULATION.

Liabilities, December 31, 1875	$13,857,127 00	
Total assets, December 31, 1875	12,254,641 19	
Deficiency, December 31, 1875		$1,602,485 81
Liabilities, July 14, 1877	13,302,577 61	
Total assets, July 14, 1877	12,569,574 30	
Deficiency, July 14, 1877		733,003 31
Net gain		$869,480 50

If there are errors in the above figures, or if the same are unfairly stated in any particular, I call on the present managers of the company, who are eminently respectable men, to point out such errors.

To this appeal there has been no reply. In conclusion, I desire to state that it is the opinion of any of the people of Hartford, my contract with the company, dated November 18, 1875, is susceptible of any construction which renders it liable to be classed as "infamous," they are those only to whom the well-known proverb applies, "Honi soit qui mal y pense!" Respectfully yours,

New-York, Jan. 12, 1878. H. J. FURBER.

AMERICAN ART AT PARIS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: Your editorial note to my letter of the 10th inst. does not seem to me to invalidate any of my positions, or to prove that Mohammed—a somewhat heterodox authority, by the way—was at all infallable, in the first place, "the thorough approval of a number of well-known and able parties"—to requote my own words—may or may not be worth anything; secondly, "an illustration of the progress of art in this country during the last ten years," demands an adequate representation of men who seek to embody the latest art culture and spirit; and thirdly, as I do not prefer to substitute my individual judgment for that of any of the laymen on Mr. McCormick's committee, my protest against its possible action has no rebound, that I can see, and simply essays to prevent ill-considered action. For the rest, a slight typographical error made me say "insane," where I used the word "inane," and a somewhat graver one omitted a word or a syllable (which were supplied in the editorial note), where I stated that "many of the best and strongest artists here, as can be proven beyond question, are very inadequately, if at all, represented in private collections of note." Thanking you for your courtesy, I remain respectfully yours,

New-York, Jan. 12, 1878. JOHN MORAN.

THE RITUALISTIC CONTROVERSY.

DR. SEYMOUR'S DENIALS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: The Rev. Dr. Charles H. Hall, in his letter in to-day's TRIBUNE, concerning the Ritualistic errors charged on the Rev. Dr. Seymour, says that "he (Dr. Seymour), has denied them one by one, point-blank, letter by letter." Dr. Hall is respectfully requested to point out these denials, or in some way bring them before the public, and to do it at once. A good many persons who are deeply interested in this matter have never seen any positive and unmistakable denial from Dr. Seymour on the subject. The quotation from his late letter about the Rev. Dr. Craik's contamination in *The Standard of the Cross* is far from satisfactory. The important clause in that quotation, which is printed in italics, viz: "I disown Hopkins's logic and inferences utterly, and have no sympathy with his tone and spirit as shown in that letter," is by no means a repudiation of Ritualism. If he will say, "I utterly disbelieve the Ritualistic doctrines enunciated by the Rev. Dr. De Koven," he will meet the issue squarely, and put the question forever at rest. Respectfully yours, H. N. POWERS.

Bridgeport, Conn., Jan. 12, 1878.

MR. BONNER'S STABLE.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: There is not a word of truth in the report which you publish this morning, that I have purchased and paid $20,000 for Mazomania, the Western trotting horse. The story is fabricated out of whole cloth. ROBERT BONNER.

New-York, Jan. 12, 1878.

[This report came in the form of a dispatch from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It would look as if the dispatch might be considered, therefore, in the nature of a surreptitious advertisement for the horse.—*Ed.*]

THE RELIGIOUS AND SECULAR PRESS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: Quite unexpectedly, not to say surprisingly, some of the leading religious newspapers, of a sectarian kind, take exception to the consideration, in the daily press, of questions connected with religion. I think that many of the clergy will join with me in saying that it is rather a matter of congratulation that some of the daily papers, edited by gentlemen of learning, culture and goodness, and, to say the least, quite equal in editorial graces to anything current in church literature, are bestowing upon all the questions that concern humanity at large an attention commensurate with the merits and claims of such topics. Religion, if anything worthy of the name, has a place in the daily business marts of very busy men—in all the relations of life, and with all the interests thereof. As ethics and doctrine are divided by no separable line, the consideration of the one will always be intimately related with the other.

Further, the religious press being read by only a small minority of the reading public, how are great, living thoughts, inspirations for good, to find currency among the masses of men save in the channels in which their literature runs? The clergy and others who would talk to the world at large find the use of the daily press imperative; neither are their thoughts, truths and facts subjected to the sifting restriction and limitations of the narrow rule of sectarian allowance. For obvious reasons, church papers have a circulation limited and confined mostly to ecclesiastical circles, beside being responsible to denominational censorship, which closes their columns to much that has not an aspirate in the Shibboleth. Asking, recently, a prominent pastor "What religious paper do you take?" his reply was "THE NEW-YORK DAILY TRIBUNE." The instance, by no means isolated, is suggestive. There is a growing demand that the household paper shall not be local and provincial in its survey, but cosmical in its comprehension; not the conduit of a theological seminary, but the highway of living practical thoughts, and reasons for that thinking. What question, that moves to racking the human mind, that does not concern every one?—and why should it be kept from the great multitude who desire to know of it, and the demonstrated reason for its affirmation or negation? If Canon Farrar is right in his philology and theology, or equally in error in both, who are more concerned in knowing it than the people at large, and how will they know it so readily as through those organs of knowledge where a full examination can be made, and with impartiality? But a question is raised as to the competency of the daily press to deal with topics of ethical and dogmatic gravity. Does not the same charge rest with equal force and weight upon church papers and the pulpit? Though no one would say without qualification in either direction.

Is there a critical department in any paper or review in the land more generous and able in impartial scholarship than the book reviews of THE TRIBUNE, touching every possible phase of human thought? Who will object to the consideration of any topic from the same pen, or beg for its relegation to the colored medium of the ecclesiastical press? I do not ask, Mr. Editor, that you should not heed the request made from some of our church journals pleading for restriction to religious platitudes, in the daily press, but to express what I believe to be a growing wish and gratification, that channels are open for the manly, earnest and exhaustive discussion of every grave and important question, that the daily banner that comes to our doors may have a mission no less than "the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth." PASTOR.

Philadelphia, Jan. 11, 1878.

NUMBER OF CHINAMEN IN CALIFORNIA.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: Permit me to ask your attention to an inadvertent over-statement of the Chinese population in California in THE TRIBUNE of January 4. You represent: "There are now in that country (Peru) between 60,000 and 70,000 of these people, nearly half the whole number in California." Please look at *The Daily Alta California* for December 27: "We accept 80,000 as the number of Chinamen in California." *The Alta* is doubtless sufficiently "high" in these figures. I should regret to see you quoted hereafter as an authority for any misrepresentation which I know you incapable of intending. There exists a general misapprehension as to the number of Chinese with us, owing to inattention to the statistics of departures and mortality. In San Francisco there are about 30,000 to 32,000; whole population, about 285,000. The population of this city is about 115,000; negroes, 30,000. The 32,000 Chinamen represent in manufactured products nearly $18,000,000 annually. Who can show that our 30,000 colored people earn $100,000 above their expenses and charge upon the community? Which is the most valuable race in an economic point of view for a city. J. C. G. KENNEDY.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 5, 1878.

CALL THINGS BY THEIR RIGHT NAMES.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: Seldom do I write a word to a paper, for the very good reason that I do not believe common persons have any influence in prominent papers. I do not hesitate to say that I am a common person, although a daily reader of THE TRIBUNE. In your paper of late I rejoice to read of the fearless slashing of the iniquities that come to light, and also of those that you expect to squelch or bring to light; but there is one thing I complain of—you do not always head your hard knocks with hard names. Devilry of all kinds wants to be represented by Webster's best. In to-day's paper you describe the devilry that Bonner left behind us a tangle. You would hardly like a clergyman to call it such from his pulpit. N.

Jamestown, N. Y., Jan. 4, 1878.

MIDNIGHT WEATHER REPORT.

GOVERNMENT INDICATIONS.

For the Middle Atlantic States, falling, followed by rising barometer, northeast winds, shifting to warmer south and west, partly cloudy and clearing weather, succeeding light rains.

TRIBUNE LOCAL OBSERVATIONS.