Amusements and Meetings To-Night.

BOOTH'S THEATRE—"Richard III." Booth.
BROADWAY THEATRE—"No Thoroughfare." Fechter.
FIFTH AVENUE HALL—2 and 8: Heller's Wonders.
FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE—"Caprice." Mme. Modjeska.
NIBLO'S GARDEN—"Duke's Motto."
PARK THEATRE—"Risks."
SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS.
UNION SQUARE THEATRE—"The Man of Success."
WALLACK'S THEATRE—"My Awfu' Dad."
KUETZ'S GALLERY—Artists' Fund Exhibition.
FOURTH AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. Morning: Lecture—Miss Sanborn.
NEW-YORK AQUARIUM—Day and Evening. Pigeon Show.

Index to Advertisements.

AMUSEMENTS—3d Page—6th column.
BANKING HOUSES AND BANKERS—7th Page—5th column.
BOARD AND ROOMS—3d Page—5th column.
BUSINESS CHANCES—7th Page—6th column.
BUSINESS NOTICES—4th Page—1st column.
COPARTNERSHIP NOTICES—7th Page—6th column.
COUNTRY BOARD—3d Page—5th column.
DANCING ACADEMIES—6th Page—3d column.
DENTISTRY—3d Page—2d column.
DIVIDEND NOTICES—7th Page—5th and 6th columns.
FINANCIAL—7th Page—4th and 5th column.
FINE ARTS—3d Page—6th column.
FURNITURE—3d Page—2d column.
HELP WANTED—3d Page—6th column.
ICE CREAM—3d Page—2d column.
MISCELLANEOUS—3d Page—5th column; 8th Page—5th and 6th columns.
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS—3d Page—6th column.
NEW PUBLICATIONS—6th Page—1st and 2d columns.
PROPOSALS—7th Page—6th column.
REAL ESTATE FOR SALE—CITY—3d Page—3d column; COUNTRY—3d Page—3d column; TO EXCHANGE—3d Page—2d column.
SAVINGS BANKS—7th Page—5th column.
SPECIAL NOTICES—5th Page—6th column.
SITUATIONS WANTED—MALES—3d Page—6th column; FEMALES—3d Page—5th column.
STEAMBOATS AND RAILROADS—3d Page—4th and 5th columns.
STEAMERS, OCEAN—7th Page—6th column.
TEACHERS—6th Page—3d column.
TO LET—CITY PROPERTY—3d Page—3d column; COUNTRY—3d Page—2d and 3d column.
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN—3d Page—2d column.
WINTER RESORTS—3d Page—5th column.

Business Notices.

FINEST OLIVE OR SALAD OIL, expressed from the choicest SELECTED OLIVES, especially for, and bottled by, CASWELL, HAZARD & CO., druggists, Fifth Avenue Hotel Block, and Gilsey's, corner 29th-st.; also, No. 132 Thames-st., Newport, R. I. As we bottle this oil ourselves, we can guarantee every bottle to be superior to any other salad oil in market. Our only places of business are as above.

MALTBY'S Norfolk Oysters cost less than any food in market. 41 Harrison-st., and 76 Cortlandt-st.

THE NEW CURE FOR LUNG DISEASES.
ROCK CANDY DISSOLVED
In pure old hand-made sour mash, fine copper whiskey, the great Southern remedy. The reliable article of whiskey from $4 to $12 per gallon, can be had of us. Rock candy, 30c. per pound. You only have to put them together and shake up. Proportion: 5 pounds to a gallon. H. B. KIRK & Co., wine merchants, 69 Fulton-st., and 769 Broadway. Established 1853.

DAILY TRIBUNE, Mail Subscribers, $10 per annum.
SEMI-WEEKLY TRIBUNE, Mail Subscribers, $3 per an.
WEEKLY TRIBUNE, Mail Subscribers, $2 per annum.
Terms, cash in advance.
Uptown advertisers can leave their favors for THE TRIBUNE at 1,258 Broadway, cor. 31st-st., or 308 W. 23d-st., cor. 8th-ave.
THE WEEKLY TRIBUNE will be ready this morning at 8 o'clock, in wrappers for mailing. Price 5 cents.

New-York Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1878.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—The Turks have bombarded the ports of Anapa and Theodosia. ═══ There has been a great battle between Philippopolis and Tatar Bazardjik; the Turks retreated. ═══ The Dominion Board of Trade has opened its eighth annual meeting.

DOMESTIC.—An exploded plot of ex-Governor Tilden to overthrow President Hayes if possible is described in THE TRIBUNE dispatches to-day. ═══ Governor McClellan was inaugurated at Trenton yesterday. ═══ Secretary Sherman has cancelled the contract with the Syndicate; the Secretary was before the Ways and Means Committee yesterday to argue in behalf of the [illegible] ═══ The President is expected to [illegible] meet seats in the House. ═══ The New-York Senate passed the bill appropriating $300,000 for work on the New Capitol; the Legislature, in joint session, elected Leslie W. Russell and Whitelaw Reid, Regents of the University; the nominations of Mr. Fairchild and Dr. Flint will probably be rejected. ═══ The low toll-sheet of last year has been adopted by the Canal Board. ═══ George H. Pendleton was elected United States Senator from Ohio. ═══ The Continental Life Insurance Company, of Hartford, Conn., is in trouble.

CONGRESS.—In the Senate a resolution offered by Mr. Hereford was adopted, requesting the Secretary of the Treasury to report in relation to the sales of bonds since March 4, 1861, payments to the Syndicate, etc. Mr. Voorhees called up his resolution relative to the credit of the Nation, and made a long speech in favor of paying the bonds in greenbacks. ═══ In the House Mr. Price spoke in favor of the restoration of silver.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.—Downer & St. John, William M. Giles & Co., and several other firms suspended yesterday. Netter & Co.'s actual liabilities were shown to be $355,000. ═══ Violations of the schedule of freight rates are very frequent and extensive. ═══ The Universal Life Insurance Company's officers, including Henry J. Furber, have resigned. ═══ The bar held a meeting of farewell to Judge Daniels, and of welcome to Judge Ingalls, yesterday. ═══ The Syndicate expects that Secretary Sherman will cancel its contract in a few days. ═══ The New-Jersey Central committees have appointed a sub-committee to prepare a plan from the various reorganization schemes. ═══ The Republican Central Committee was reorganized for 1878. ═══ The cargo of the schooner E. H. Pray was found and the mate was arrested. ═══ The examination of the charge against Police Captain Williams, for assault, was begun. ═══ The Sixth Avenue Railroad Company will appeal from the Supreme Court General Term's adverse decision. ═══ A coroner's jury censured the police in the case of Joseph Heil. ═══ Gold 102, 101⅞, 102. Gold value of the legal-tender dollar at the close, 98 cents. Stocks moderately active and lower, closing weak, without recovery.

THE WEATHER.—TRIBUNE local observations indicate clearer and somewhat cooler weather. Thermometer yesterday, 38°, 42°, 36°.

Voorhees' great speech has been delivered. It was the product of a mental agony that endured at least three weeks; the Senate's only lasted a day.

It is surmised that when Joel Parker heard of the goings-on in Trenton, he expressed the opinion that General McClellan's war record was very, very bad.

Senator Blaine takes a cheerful view of his relations with the Administration, and does not repine because his recommendations are not usually followed by appointments. He tells the whole story, as it has recently been the subject of gossip, and seems rather to enjoy telling it.

Senator St. John has introduced a bill at Albany to foster the planting of shade trees throughout the State. The object is certainly most commendable. Mr. St. John does not propose a costly method of attaining it, and the burdens of taxation would be very little heavier if his bill should pass.

To the list of such concerns in serious trouble, the Continental Life Insurance Company, of Hartford, is now to be added. It was about half as large as its name-sake of unfragrant memory in this city, but the methods of its mismanagement were similar in quality and result. There is the same sickening story to be told, if the first reports are verified, of trickery in annual statements, false book-keeping, bad investments, and half-successful attempts to "freeze out" policy-holders. The list of investments includes many that were evidently unfit to be considered for a moment when trust funds were at stake, and there seems to be reason for believing that the folly of the management was exceeded by its dishonesty.

Mr. Price, of Iowa, discussed the great Silver question in the House yesterday. He distinctly alleged that "if we be attentive "listeners, we may hear from every passing "breeze that is wafted to us from the marts of "commerce, from the field of the husbandman, "from the hum of the loom, and from the ring "of the anvil, words of encouragement to pur-"sue steadily the silvery pathway that shall "conduct our Nation to the goal of financial "prosperity."—And here the House quietly but firmly adjourned.

The refusal of the Democratic caucus of the House to investigate the charges of bargains against President Hayes, draws out, in our Washington dispatches, a very interesting reminiscence of the Electoral controversy. It is declared, on the highest Democratic authority, that a scheme was formed by which a decision was to be demanded from the Supreme Court, on the application of some State declaring itself to have been defrauded of its Electoral vote, and asserting the jurisdiction of the Court, under that clause of the Constitution which gives it original jurisdiction in all cases to which a State is a party.

Visitors to Trenton yesterday must have left town with a vague impression that somebody proposed to run Governor McClellan for President in 1880. Banners in the procession nominated him; speakers at the serenades nominated him; presentation orators nominated him; and, greatest of all, Senator Randolph, the Warwick of the New-Jersey Democracy, nominated him. But it has happened to more promising candidates than General McClellan to be nominated too early and too often, and this looks like a case of that kind. The General appears to be allowing himself only his usual time for intrenchments, but the digging should be done with less noise.

Another year of low tolls is assured by the action of the Canal Board in readopting last year's toll-sheet. As no change whatever is made in the schedule of rates, it is held that it will not be necessary to submit this toll-sheet to the Legislature, as it has been once approved already; but should this be required, there can be little doubt of the verdict of the Legislature. This year the experiment of placing the tolls at such a low rate will be made under more favorable auspices than heretofore, for this year, we take it for granted, the Governor and Senate will come to some agreement about a Superintendent of Public Works, and the canals will be administered with greater economy. The result is of great importance to the commerce of New-York, which is, doubtless, sure now of protection, for seven months of the year, against the railroad conspirators.

Governor McClellan's first message plants him squarely on the right side of the question of honest money and specie payments, and that is something to be thankful for in a Presidential candidate. His argument for the necessity of fulfilling all our obligations "on principles of the highest honor "and honesty," is full, explicit and manly, and the whole of this portion of his address may be read with advantage by a good many people, both in New-Jersey and [illegible] who think they know all that there [illegible] ernor McClellan says that it is "a duty to "express, in the clearest and most decided "terms, reprobation of all attempts to violate "the sacredness of obligations to avoid the "payment of any portion of our just debts, "to impair the National honor and credit, or "to declare by law that a part of a dollar "shall be a whole dollar." Let us hope that the Legislature of New-Jersey will adopt this suggestion promptly, and speak with equal boldness.

Despite the willingness of the Grand Duke Nicholas to consider peace proposals, the march on Adrianople continues, as if he were resolved to convince the Turks that it would be reasonable to demand its surrender as one of the first conditions of peace. General Ghourko, who captured Sophia, on the 3d instant, had advanced eastward as far as Ikhtiman and Tatar Bazardjik on the 13th. It may be inferred that he has continued to advance, and that the great battle, reported from Constantinople, was caused by an effort on the part of Suleiman to stay his progress. As, however, that Pasha has fallen back on Philippopolis, it is evident that General Ghourko's march cannot be checked, and that he may soon expect to combine his forces with those of General Radetzky, which have occupied several points since they issued from the Shipka Pass. In the face of this concerted movement, it is utterly futile for the Ottoman commanders to offer resistance until the invaders advance to the walls of Adrianople. There the fate of the Ottoman Empire may be decided.

Mr. Schurz is hasty and hot in defence of his Indian investigation. We give him, this morning, at least double as much space for the defence as has hitherto been surrendered to the criticism. Mr. Schurz dawns upon the public in this defence in a new light. He considers himself an exceedingly practical, and President Seelye an exceedingly impracticable person. Both these opinions will appear to the public in the nature of news. Mr. Schurz is ready with charges of untruth. He has been ready in this way several times within the past year, and each time he went limping off the field himself before the discussion ended. The statements made by THE TRIBUNE concerning the disreputable character of some of the people hanging about the Indian investigation are susceptible of proof, and are already well known in Washington. We expect soon to see them equally well-known throughout the country. Meantime, as we have been in the way of doing Mr. Schurz unnumbered kindnesses for a good many years past, we may as well do him another now. It is to give him a bit of good advice: Don't be so ready to hold everybody who objects to what you do, either untruthful or a simpleton.

A long contest is probable at Lynn between the boot and shoe manufacturers and the Crispin organization. The results must, of course, be disastrous to both sides, but the unemployed laborers will suffer most. A period when business of all kinds is depressed, when manufacturers have a narrow margin to escape loss, when thousands of men are vainly seeking employment, is a poor time for interference by so-called labor organizations, between workmen and employers. The irresponsible leaders of such interference will have much loss and suffering to answer for among the misled workmen. Strikes are rarely successful, but where they are, they kill the goose that would lay the golden eggs. It is a well known fact that the interference of labor organizations has driven several branches of labor out of this city, and seriously decreased others. There are many instances in England where great manufacturing centres have entirely lost their prosperity through the frequent recurrence of labor troubles. The employers of Lynn take the better horn of the dilemma in refusing to employ workmen that are bound by the arbitrary dictates of the worthless fellows who often control trade societies. That way, the manufacturers may find safety; by yielding, they would invite ruin.

SMALL INVESTMENTS.

Let us take a lesson from France. It need cause no shame, for no nation has been more wisely managed than France in things of the first moment. It has startled the world, first, by its marvellous financial and industrial success, after a great defeat in war, and second, by its yet more marvellous growth in true self-rule—in calmness, self-restraint, patience, and reliance upon the power of the ballot in the late crisis. What are the causes? Are they not such that the United States should study them, and draw from the deeds of France lessons for itself? The latest foreign mail brings official information well worth study. The number of French holders of French rentes registered was 4,404,763 more than one year ago, and a large number also held the unregistered or coupon bonds. The number of depositors in savings banks has grown from 37 to 65 in 1,000 of population. Does some one ask what this has to do with financial success or political stability?

Until recently, France was the land of hoarders, the home of the communist, and the womb of revolutions. The people had no stake in the government. Few were trained by pecuniary responsibility to care for social order. Of all western nations, France hoarded most and invested least. The marvellous success of that Nation in finance has been ascribed to its frugality. This is truth, but it is not the whole truth. The Nation triumphed in finance because a frugal people suddenly ceased to hoard, and began to invest. Millions of little hoards were drawn from hiding-places. In 1870, the holders of French rentes registered numbered only 1,254,000; more than a year ago the number had increased to 4,404,763, so that more than half of the families in France held a direct interest in the stability of the Government. But in addition, there has been a marvellous growth in the number of savings-bank depositors. In 1835 there were only 4 in 1,000; in 1861 there were 36; in 1870 there were 58, and in 1875 there were 65 in 1,000. Fully one-third of the families, in other words, are now bound by pecuniary savings to care for the stability of the Government, for there, as here, the life of savings institutions depends largely upon the public credit and order. No doubt, many who are depositors also hold shares of the Government securities, but there is no room for dispute that much more than half of the heads of families in that country have now acquired a direct pecuniary interest in the maintenance of order, the defence of public credit, and in the stability of the Government. Hence it was that the Marshal, pushed forward by clerical and Bonapartist influences hitherto irresistible in France, found to his amagement that he was beating his head against a solid stone wall. The people of France had become con- Communistic agitators had become investors, nor feared, because France has learned the great lesson that he who saves ought to have security for his savings.

Suppose that more than half of the heads of families in the Western or Southern States of this Union had investments in the bonds of the Union, would there be any danger of repudiation, of silver bills, or of disorder? In New-England, New-York and New-Jersey, much more than half of the voters are either depositors in savings banks which invest their capital largely in Government bonds, or are holders of bonds themselves, or of stocks in banks. Far more than half have the investor's interest in the public order and the public credit. As a consequence, no scheme of repudiation, no plan for robbing creditors at the expense of public honor, finds any encouragement in these States. But at the West and South, the majority of the people have no such stake in the good order, good credit, and general prosperity of the country. The bonds have not been popularized so as to attract small holders. Savings banks are few, and have departed from their legitimate functions.

Secretary Sherman proposes to place United States bonds before the people for subscription, and in such amounts that small investors may find therein a place for their savings. This is a measure of great wisdom. It ought to have been adopted long ago, and cannot now be adopted too soon. The methods chosen ought to be such as to bring the bonds directly to the notice of the people, especially at the West and South, and to give them every possible facility for purchase. Arrangements can easily be made by which every Post Office and every National bank shall be enabled to receive subscriptions, and save the subscribers the trouble of obtaining gold for their currency. Too much cannot be done to bring the loan within the ready reach of the humblest citizens. The experience of France shows what results may be expected. Every citizen who becomes an investor learns the importance of order, and discovers that every sort of repudiater is a public enemy.

GOVERNMENT BY DEBATE.

The history of the struggle of parties in our degenerate days will never have the same interest for our grandchildren that we feel in the conflicts of our forefathers. There are few more captivating chapters in the records of the past hundred years than those which describe the battles of the giants in the English Parliament, or the superb debates of our own Congress when Webster and Clay were at the summit of their fame. The eloquence of Chatham and Pitt, of Fox and Burke, still quickens the pulse and inflames the ambition of the young, long years after their voices are hushed, and the very controversies which excited them are forgotten. We read, with an enthusiasm still fresh and fruitful, of "that terrible cornet of "horse," who swayed the destinies of empires by the magic of his speech; and of his yet more brilliant and astonishing son who made himself by the same marvellous gift of oratory Chancellor of the Exchequer at twenty-three, and the greatest of English subjects at twenty-five. The details of the Parliamentary campaigns in which the grandest questions of State, the bottom principles of politics, were discussed with majestic and impassioned eloquence that justified the famous definition of Cicero—*copiose loquens sapientia*—are as thrilling as the incidents of Waterloo and Jena. We read of the changing fortunes of debate, the dramatic surprises of long night sessions, the onset of the champions, the meeting of heroes, the rout and the victory, as we might follow the march of battalions and the deeds of great commanders.

We too have had our mighty orators, our great intellectual battles. Shall we have them no more? For the time, at all events, the art of government by debate is forgotten. The eloquence that moves Senates is never heard in our Capitol. The statesman who would have held the House, a generation ago, intent upon his earnest and burning words, who would have captured the judgment by cogent reasoning and commanded majorities by passionate appeals, now writes a cold and flimsy speech, with the aid of his clerk, and reads it to the reporters of *The Congressional Record*, while the members are busy with their newspapers and private letters, or lounging in the cloak-rooms. It is a common saying that no vote in Congress is ever changed by a speech. It would be more correct to say that even the ablest and most patriotic of our political leaders rarely attempt the application to political undertakings of those forces which in past years played so important a part in the regulation of all free States. If it is not exactly true that the arts of argument and persuasion have been abandoned and replaced by chicanery, intrigue, and traffic, it is true that the contests of parties are no longer conducted in the arena of public debate, but settled, to all intents and purposes, behind the closed doors of committee-rooms or in the secrecy of the caucus. It goes without saying that such a change must be of vast injury to the Government; that it facilitates the introduction of base practices and unworthy influences; that it impairs the proper effect of public opinion; and that it brings to the front of affairs not the strongest intellects, and the loftiest characters, but the men who are most adroit in playing upon the passions and weaknesses of their fellows, and the most fertile in tricks and stratagems. Large assemblies are moved by grand impulses, but private cabals are ruled by intrigue.

Yet there are surely topics before our present Congress which ought to arouse the sleeping energies of statesmen, and call forth once more the stirring eloquence which of old shaped the course of nations and aroused the soldiers of independence, freedom and reform. He must be but a scurvy patriot who feels no indignation when the honor of his country is in peril, and finds an assault upon its good name no inspiration to impassioned appeal, to indignant protest, to the noble anger of invective. The question of American honesty is one of the gravest and should be one of the most exciting that Congress has ever had to discuss; but the floor seems to be abandoned in both Houses to outrageous attacks upon the National credit, exhibitions of ignorance touching the fundamental principles of morality and finance, and the timid apologies of politicians without conscience who stoop to the prejudices of their deluded constituents. Where are the champions of truth and honor? Where are the statesmen who ought to lead the Nation out of this danger? There have been a few speeches on the right side, made at irregular intervals, without sign of concerted purpose, and with very little of the combative and aggressive spirit which animates followers and commands victory. There are men who have dared to face the adverse sentiment of their neighbors and political friends,—men like Mr. Lamar, for instance, who cannot be induced by any personal or political influences to abandon a cause which they know to be right. But the country needs something more. If the Republican leaders would bring [illegible] House some of the passion which they are said to expend in the caucus; if they would defend their country with as much earnestness as they waste upon the appointment of tide-waiters; if they would make the halls of Congress ring again with stalwart speech and generous wrath, as they did in the days of the slavery debates, no schemes of dishonor could withstand the onset, and the Republican party, rallying once more the best, the purest, the loftiest sentiments of the Nation, would march forward to fresh triumphs.

CABINET OFFICERS IN CONGRESS.

President Hayes will recommend in his message on Civil Service Reform, as our Washington dispatches show, legislation whereby members of the Cabinet will be admitted to the privilege of debate in Congress on questions connected with their departments. This will be the first utterance in favor of what has long been deemed by many a desirable innovation, since Mr. Pendleton, who is now about to re-enter Congress in the upper branch, signalized his last days in the House by urging this measure with ability and eloquence upon the attention of his colleagues. Mr. Pendleton's bill, the text of which will be found elsewhere, awarded seats upon the floor of the House to the various members of the Cabinet, with the right to speak upon matters affecting their several Departments, and so as not to put it in their power to refuse to exercise this privilege, required their attendance on two days of each week, immediately after the opening of the House, to answer questions propounded by members. With this bill were submitted amendments to the rules requiring public notice of the questions to be asked, a proper interval, so as to allow sufficient time for the preparation of answers, and, in other respects, conforming the rules of the House to the long-established English practice. The measure was vigorously opposed then, and doubtless will be again, but there are very many powerful considerations in its favor. THE TRIBUNE would gladly see introduced into our parliamentary system the one feature in which it has seemed to be chiefly lacking, and the presence of which, in many other Governments, has given them a direct responsibility to the people, in which ours has sometimes seemed deficient. No one would seriously propose to carry the parallel any further; any modification of the logic of our Government by which the terms of Cabinet officers should be made to depend upon the will of the lower branch of Congress would contradict the whole theory of the Constitution. But so far as this change would tend to make the heads of Departments more directly responsible to the people's representatives for the proper administration of their offices, and, on the other hand, would give them an opportunity to explain policies and repel charges, of which they are now deprived, it would seem to be an excellent idea to borrow.

Of the constitutionality of such a measure, there seems to be no doubt; the only question on which a serious issue can be raised, is that of expediency. If Congress can call upon the Secretaries for information, as it is constantly doing, it is difficult to understand why it may not ask that the facts desired shall be made known by word of mouth. The Secretary of the Treasury already transmits his annual report directly to the House, and, under the law, can be called upon for an oral report. The right of the House to admit persons who are not members to the privileges of debate, under certain restrictions, has often been exercised, and cannot be disputed, it would seem, under that provision of the Constitution which allows each House to "determine the rules of its proceedings." The right of the House to demand the performance of the duty, and its right to grant the privilege, seem equally clear.

Those who will oppose the project on the ground of expediency will undoubtedly be divided—as its opponents in past years have been divided—into those who oppose it because it will increase the powers of the Executive branch of the Government, and those who oppose it because it will decrease those powers. It is difficult to see in what way it does one or the other, or, if it does both, why, in each respect, it does not effect a desirable result. The Cabinet officer who could go upon the floor of the House of Representatives and advocate his budget or defend himself against accusation, might have more influence than the Cabinet officer who is now compelled to prime some member to do his talking for him, and lobbies for his budget in a shamefaced way, lest the presence of the head of a Department should give rise to scandal, and insinuations of "Executive influence;" but he would still be a speaker without a vote. The Cabinet officer who should be required to attend twice a week in the House to answer questions, might be a trifle less independent than the Cabinet officer who now answers such questions by letter, but the difference does not seem important. What there is, however, seems to be for the better. The heads of the Departments occupy a position now which could almost be characterized as irresponsible. They are answerable to Congress, but not so directly as the good of the public service sometimes requires. They are answerable to the President, but they have been known to defy his wishes, and clog his administration.

In the last speech which he made in the House, Mr. Pendleton cited a striking incident in support of his bill. It was the investigation of the charge that Secretary Floyd was sending arms into the South for the use of the seceding States, while still remaining in Mr. Buchanan's Cabinet. All the machinery of investigation was used, precious weeks were wasted, and nothing was found out. As Mr. Pendleton said, if that Secretary had stood upon the floor of the House, "subject to inter-"rogatories for five minutes," the truth would have been discovered.

As a rule, Cabinet Ministers would doubtless be glad to avail themselves of this privilege. It would enable them to urge their views as no one else could urge them; it would enable them to silence slander and expose misrepresentation. On the other hand, it would give members of Congress opportunities for the constant exercise of that vigilance which is their highest duty. It would be a reform, just to the officer, beneficial to the people.

ALL THE GASES LIQUEFIED.

We have before expressed the belief that the last half of the present century will always be accounted among the great eras of scientific discovery. There are so many wonderful results of recent research, that it is difficult to enumerate even the more prominent ones. Among them are the invention of the spectroscope, with the discoveries reaching from earth to inconceivably distant fixed stars, which have followed in its train; the determination of the laws of the correlation of forces and the conservation of energy, which succeeded the discovery that heat is only a mode of motion, and created new conceptions of the whole universe as to its past, present and future; the preparation of the aniline colors, which has furnished an infinite number of iridescent and varying hues; the composition, from [illegible] organic substances, by which false notions about vital force (which had been accounted half-miraculous) have been overthrown; the discovery of the satellites of Mars, which round out and nearly complete the picture of the solar system; the invention of the telephone and the phonograph, which enable us on the one hand to transmit our voices to great distances, or on the other, to preserve our utterances for indefinite periods, so that the speech of to-day may be set aside and heard again at any time in the future.

To this wonderful record a new chapter is now to be added. Within a very few weeks, two European investigators have succeeded in condensing to a liquid form all the gases that had hitherto defied such effort. In the early part of this century, when certain gases were liquefied by Faraday and other experimenters, the facts excited general interest, as giving a clew to the real constitution of matter. The new experiments were widely tried, and in performing them at Paris, in a public lecture, an explosion occurred which killed one of the operating assistants. Then, for more than half a century, discovery in this line was almost suspended. Several gases, such as nitric oxide, acetylene, nitrogen, oxygen and hydrogen, absolutely withstood all attempts. Within a few weeks, the compound gases named, and some others, have been liquefied. Next, oxygen yielded to pressure and cold; an event of sufficient importance to be telegraphed by Professor Tyndall to *The London Times*, and to be announced at scientific centres all over the world. Of this, a detailed account was given in the column of Science for the People, by THE TRIBUNE. Now comes the announcement that the remaining gases have undergone a similar treatment, and are liquefied: nitrogen, under a pressure of 200 atmospheres; hydrogen, under 280. The latter gas was only reduced to an opaque mist, but the air which we ordinarily breathe was converted into a liquid, and poured out in a fine stream. The cold required for these experiments is almost inconceivable; it is estimated at 300° below zero of the Centigrade thermometer, equivalent to more than 500° below, of Fahrenheit's scale.

The discoverers who have achieved these results—M. Cailletet, of Paris, and M. Pictet, of Geneva—will receive due honor from their scientific brethren. It remains to be shown what the discoveries teach. The degree of cold that was required in condensing common air, though remarkable, is not greater than is estimated for the void of space through which the planets are travelling; that extends infinitely between and perhaps beyond the stars. It was the low temperature—not the great pressure—which liquified the gases; they took the liquid form while escaping from pressure, and in the act of escaping the extreme cold was attained. It follows that, in the cold of space, unwarmed by the sun, an atmosphere like that of our globe would freeze first into a liquid, and then into a solid mass, becoming at last a mere rock as hard as granite. We can now better appreciate the vast changes which comets undergo in passing from the frozen confines of our solar system to so close a neighborhood of the sun that they are reduced to a vapor. Knowing now, as we do with certainty, the extremes of form to which all matter is liable, we may surely predict that the future of our globe simply depends upon the amount of heat received by its surface. If the heat diminishes, all earth and air will be silent stone without the breath of life upon it; if the heat increases, the whole world will melt in thin air.

The performances which are to be given at the Academy of Music, to-morrow, for the benefit of John Brougham, bear, in many points, a resemblance to that given in London last March, at the Drury Lane Theatre, to the celebrated English actor, Henry Compton. Representative comedians, both of them, their names are and will be honored in dramatic story. The record of their private lives is spotless, and their careers have been, in every way, so worthy, as to produce in the hearts of the public a feeling not only of admiration, but of affection. Another point of resemblance is that when both were stricken down by sickness and most needed friends, "troops of friends" flocked to their bedsides to cheer and comfort them. It is good to know this—good to see it—good to take a part in it. There is not a man who attended the benefit of Compton at Old Drury, in London, who does not think of the occasion with pleasure, and who is not glad to be able to say, "I was there;" and there is not one who visits the Academy of Music to-morrow for the benefit of Brougham who will not create for himself a green spot which he will always look back upon with pleasure. The entertainment is notable and remarkable, and the cause is noble; the result cannot fail to be satisfactory, and worthy both of John Brougham and the public of New-York.

POLITICAL NOTES.

The defenders of the Nation's honor have at last found speech in Congress.

The Democratic party is solemn with the awful suspicion that Mr. Tilden is about to foreclose on it.

The Widow Oliver would find an appropriate vent for her extra zeal by joining the woman suffrage movement.

A detachment of Fernando Wood's investigating brigade should be deployed to see if there is anything left of Montgomery Blair.

Uncle Dick Bishop had his portrait, life size, hung in an arch at his inauguration. His message seems to have been a more striking likeness, though.

Mr. Manton Marble is entitled to a hearing. He is accused by one of the Florida canvassers of an effort at bribery. Speak up, Mr. Marble, speak up! You *shall* be heard—if you wish.

The unexpected vote for General Garfield in the Ohio Legislature troubles the silver agitators. They say it was due to "persistent lobbying." Perhaps so, but the vote on the other side might just as correctly be said to be due to persistent lying.

There is nothing like the hunger of a "reformer." If the Democratic Congressmen are forced to hold a caucus to dispose of the patronage at the command of a House doorkeeper, what will happen if the party become possessed of the Government?

Senator Blaine declines to venture on a prediction concerning the future of political parties. He is credited with saying that his observations during his recent trip convinced him that the Republican party throughout the country is intact, and that the antagonism between the President and the Senate did not extend to the ranks of the party. There can be no doubt of the soundness of this view.

General B. F. Butler appears now as a bank bull-dozer. According to a correspondent of *The Cincinnati Enquirer*, he threatens the National banks with extermination if they persist in their "conspiracy to control the currency and finances of the country." They are the "creatures of Congressional legislation," and if they "set themselves up against their creator" they "will provoke a storm which will sweep them out of existence." *The Enquirer* thinks this threat is "worthy the serious consideration of the scheming Shylocks." It doesn't seem to be much of a shower.

Professor J. L. Diman, of Brown University, delivered an address at the dedication of a new public library building at Bristol, R. I., recently, and among many other valuable observations, made this appropriate reference to the absorbing question now agitating the country: "I cannot forget that this library is largely for young men, and for young men, in this age and especially in this country, I know of nothing more important than to be well grounded in all that relates to the duties of the citizen. When we call to mind, not simply the glaring corruptions that have come to pervade our political life, but the atrocious and demoralizing sentiments that are daily enunciated, the trifling with the public honor, the gross ignorance that pervades large classes of the community respecting the simplest principles of finance, the unblushing defiance of justice and right, it seems to me that sound political education is now the crying need of the American people, an education such as shall render it impossible for them to be hoodwinked by designing knaves, an education such as shall lead them to blast with scorn the first suggestion of any legislation likely to tarnish the National fame."

Judge Samuel B. McLin, a former member of the Florida Board of Canvassers, has returned to Washington a good deal irritated because the Senate declined to confirm his appointment to New-Mexico. A reporter of *The Post* sought him out with the evident belief that in his soreness he might divulge a stirring Democratic sensation. The belief was not groundless, for the sensation came, but it was not at the expense of the Republican party. When asked if he had been promised anything for helping "count in" Florida for Hayes, he said no, but immediately added that he did have an offer from the other side. Pressed to explain, he added: "Yes, one of the Democrats who came down to Florida for Tilden's side, came out to my house and said to me: 'We've got all the returns and know for a certainty that Tilden's elected. Now you've got the making of a President in your hands.' I disclaimed anything of the kind, but he kept insisting. He said: 'We know there's one member of the board that you control. He'll vote any way you do. Now, if you'll rise above party and vote to give the State to Tilden there's nothing within the power of the Democracy that you shan't have.' That was Mr. Manton Marble himself. I told him that I wouldn't sell myself for a million dollars; that I'd die a poor man first, and he said: 'You needn't die poor. If you'll just give the State to Tilden the Democratic party will make you rich. It's a great party, and knows how to reward its friends. It will provide for you for life.' I told him I would count the vote according to what I believed to be right. That's the only offer or anything of that sort that was ever made to me. It was just the night before the count commenced." There seems to be a chance here for a few remarks from Mr. Marble. This could not have been the "portentous event" he referred to recently as "foreordaining" the renomination of Tilden.

PERSONAL.

Joseph Tuckerman's 100th birthday is to be formally celebrated in Boston Friday evening.

Don Carlos, in a cheerful state of mind, looking remarkably well, and calling himself Duke of Madrid, has arrived in London.

Senator Blaine has returned to Washington very enthusiastic about the Arkansas Hot Springs, which seem to have cured him altogether.

There is a rumor that Judge Swayne, who was District Attorney for Ohio under President Jackson, intends to write a history of that sturdy person's times.

Mr. Hayes is reported to have grown extremely plump in office. His full whiskers can scarcely conceal the roundness of his face, and his dress coat stretches and wrinkles across his robust frame.

Dr. S. W. Williams is to give four lectures on the religions of China before the Yale Divinity School this Winter; the Rev. Phillips Brooks two on the teachings of religion; and the Rev. L. W. Bacon two on Protestantism and Roman Catholicism in Europe.

Mr. Spurgeon gave a curious lecture in London the other evening called "Sermons in Candles." In the course of it he exhibited to his audience for purposes of illustration an old candle-box, a rush light, a dirty old lantern, and a candle lit at both ends.

Mr. Udo Brachvogel, the German poet and journalist, who is at present the partner of Mr. Rudolf Lexow in publishing the *Belletristische Journal*, in this city, was married on Saturday last to Miss Kaethe Müller, in Washington. Mr. W. W. Corcoran gave away the bride, and the bridegroom's witnesses were Kurd von Schlözer, the German Minister, and Mr. Secretary Schurz.

Of Senator McCreery, of Kentucky, it is asserted that when at home his mind was most intensely occupied when he was engaged in fishing. He was in the habit of spending whole days in contemplative admiration of the timid trout for whom his bait had not too much attraction. It is said that with a fishing rod, a piece of corn bread and a piece of bacon, Senator McCreery could spend whole days in the most perfect enjoyment.

One of the transcendentalists of Brook Farm, being recently beguiled to talk about his experience there, said among other things that it was "funny to see Hawthorne. He began with great zest,—chopping hay for the cattle, milking the cows, hoeing potatoes,—everything was entered into at first with a sort of fresh belief that there was going to come some real enjoyment from the labor itself. But very soon he became disgusted, and declared that manual labor was part of the primeval curse, and that it brutified whoever had to do with it. He did this all, however, in a quaint, humorous fashion, and did not immediately act upon it, to withdraw. The most that I recall of Margaret Fuller was that she talked. I think Margaret liked to talk better than anything else."

ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 15.—Mr. George H. Boker, the United States Minister here, handed to the Emperor yesterday his letters of recall, and Mr. E. W. Stoughton, who succeeds Mr. Boker, presented his credentials to his Majesty.

MADRID, Jan. 15.—The Congress to-day, by a vote of 300 to 4, approved King Alfonso's marriage with the Princess Mercedes.

ROME, Jan. 15.—General Garibaldi has written to King Humbert I., begging him to follow in his father's footsteps.

LONDON, Jan. 15.—By invitation, Professor Bell and Colonel W. H. Reynolds exhibited the telephone