Amusements and Meetings To-Night.

BROADWAY OPERA HOUSE—"The Strategists."
DALY'S THEATRE—"An Arabian Night."
HAVERLY'S THEATRE—"The Galley Slave."
NEW-YORK AQUARIUM—Day and Evening.
PARK THEATRE—"Fairfax."
SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS' OPERA HOUSE—Variety.
STANDARD THEATRE—"Princess Toto."
UNION SQUARE THEATRE—"French Flats."
WALLACK'S THEATRE—"She Stoops to Conquer."

KOSTER & BIAL'S GARDEN—Concert.

Index to Advertisements.

Business Notices.

New-York Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1879.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—The railway authorities estimate the loss by the Tay Bridge accident at seventy-five lives. ═ Peralta and fifty insurgents of less rank have surrendered in Cuba. ═ An alliance between the German Socialists and Russian Nihilists is said to have been discovered. ═ It is reported that the Czar proposes to hand over the internal affairs of the country to his eldest son.

DOMESTIC.—General Grant was entertained at dinner in Washington yesterday by Mr. Levi P. Morton. ═ There is some alarm in Washington about small-pox. ═ Governor Garcelon, of Maine, defended his course in a speech at Belfast; Mayor Nash, of Augusta, has written him a letter, urging that troops be not called to the Capital. ═ The losses by the fire at Boston are now estimated at one million dollars. ═ State Treasurer Wendell has named his staff. ═ Mr. Hayden testified again in his own defence yesterday. ═ General Grant will not leave Washington till Friday.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.—President Hayes in a talk with a TRIBUNE reporter yesterday expressed the belief that there would be no violence in Maine. ═ Swindling firms in Wall Street have been exposed and their mail matter will be stopped. ═ J. Lloyd Haigh made an assignment with liabilities of $300,000. ═ The Sinking Fund Commissioners adopted the Spinola steam-heating scheme ═ William Howard was re-arrested. ═ Bankers commented on the proposition to issue 3½ per cent bonds. ═ Gold value of the legal-tender silver dollar (412½ grains), 87.69 cents. Stocks active, excited and higher, closing buoyant.

THE WEATHER.—TRIBUNE local observations indicate cooler, partly cloudy or clear weather. Thermometer yesterday: Highest, 44°; lowest, 35°; average, 40°.

There seems to be little expectation in Maine that Governor Garcelon will submit the proposed questions to the Supreme Court. Is he ready to assume the heavy responsibility which will rest upon the man who defeats this peaceful solution of a grave difficulty?

The first fears of the degree of loss sustained by the Boston fire are, happily, not realized. It is now estimated that this will not much exceed $1,000,000, and both the buildings and stocks were well insured. The details regarding the insurances, however, have not all been gathered.

That question concerning the authorship of the Maine fraud is still far from being settled. General Butler cries out, while Mr. Tilden remains silent, but it is only to deny that the fraud is his offspring. Solomon's test fails, as no doubt Solomon's wisdom would, in the presence of the whole Maine business.

The returns from the collections of Hospital Saturday and Sunday are not yet complete, but the total seems meagre, especially when it is considered that a large proportion of the $10,000 so far reported was contributed in handsome sums by individual subscriptions. Judgment should not be passed, however, upon the success of the effort until the result is fully known.

The zeal with which Controller Kelly has pushed the Spinola scheme to tear up the streets for the benefit of a private company is not likely to add to his popularity. As to Alderman Houghton's enlistment under the Spinola banner after having fought in the opposition, there are doubtless convincing reasons for the change. When did a New-York Alderman ever go over to the other side without convincing reasons?

It appears that William Howard, who was arrested for burglary Christmas morning, and whose pitiful story excited much practical sympathy, is a burglar recently released from prison, and not an honest carpenter out of work. This disagreeable news will be a shock to the benevolent people who have interested themselves in the case, and may check the outflow of charity to persons who better deserve it than this ingeniously inventive burglar. The speedy exposure of the falsehood, however, may have saved the city from an eruption of starving burglars. But though Howard himself may not merit pity there seems to be no doubt that those dependent on him were actually suffering for want of food.

President Hayes never displayed his cheerful optimism more conspicuously than in the talk upon the Maine fraud which is reported elsewhere. He not only adheres to the opinion that the fraud will fail because public sentiment will be overwhelmingly against it, but now goes so far as to believe that the very men whom Governor Garcelon and his colleagues have counted into office will decline to take their ill-gotten seats in the Legislature, will declare that they belong "in equity" to the Republicans who were elected, and will retire in their favor. Inasmuch as the day of assembling is only a little more than a week distant, and not one of the Fusionists who have been counted in has manifested such a righteous purpose, it is difficult, even with a large faith in human nature, to believe that they will do anything of the kind. Not even the three men necessary to defeat the plot have declared themselves. Still the President's undiminished ability to think well of his fellow-man is by no means an unpleasant thing to contemplate.

The terrible disaster at the Tay bridge has sent a thrill of horror through all England and Scotland. There seemed every reason to believe that the loss of life was even greater than was supposed at first. The tickets were taken up in the train at the last station before entering the bridge, and the train, which included four third-class cars, was then crowded. Probably the estimate of a loss of 300 lives was obtained in this way. This figure was at first accepted by the railroad authorities, but they have now reduced their estimate, for reasons which are not explained, to a loss of 75. The great bridge which has been virtually destroyed was regarded as one of the greatest wonders of modern engineering. Its two miles of iron spanned an angry arm of the sea—and the sea has conquered. Half a mile in length of this great structure fell, whether with the train upon it or before the train entered the bridge it will never be possible to prove. The cars had to fall eighty-eight feet, in either case, before reaching the water, and there is every reason to suppose that the train plunged into the abyss at full speed. The imagination refuses to picture the horrors to those four score human beings of that brief, swift and awful descent. Happily it must have been brief. It is scarcely necessary to say that not one of those on board escaped alive; not one could escape alive, seeing that they were flung in huge coffins into a deep and raging sea. When the suddenness and the completeness of their extinction are considered, this must be regarded as one of the most singular and most dreadful accidents of recent times.

ARBITRATION IN MAINE.

We are not sanguine of any decisive result from the correspondence between ex-Senator Morrill and Governor Garcelon, but whatever may come of the proposition to submit certain points of the case to a judicial interpretation, it is satisfactory at all events that the proposition has been made. Mr. Morrill's letter to the Governor is a model of good sense and decorum. By his careful yet easy politeness he has done everything in his power to make the course he suggests so agreeable to the Governor that not only will it involve no sacrifice of dignity on the part of that starched and bristling Chief Magistrate, but it will offer him the simplest way of escape from an unpleasant situation. We do not see how the Governor can help accepting the invitation in the same frank spirit in which it is made.

If we are doubtful of a satisfactory result it is because we believe the authors of the Maine fraud must have prepared themselves beforehand for just this contingency. It is but too clear that the arrangements for counting out were made in advance, and made by an expert; and it is not to be expected that a scheme so elaborately and astutely planned will be abandoned, in the very moment of success, merely in deference to the protests of outraged public opinion. Governor Garcelon, it will be observed, has thus far consented to refer only those points which have not been already decided. But, as Mr. Morrill pertinently remarks, the question of what has been decided is one upon which lawyers most frequently fail to agree; and if an equitable decision is desired, the most important points submitted to the Court should perhaps relate to the applicability of rules already laid down to the particular cases now under dispute. If the Governor determines whether this or that controversy must be governed by this or that decision, he reserves to himself the principal part of the dispute. It is also to be borne in mind that an executive act may be grossly unjust and yet warranted by statute. The law necessarily clothes Canvassing Boards with considerable discretionary powers, and it is a well understood principle that the Courts will not dictate to executive officers how they ought to use their discretion, but will assume that they act according to their best judgment and their conscience. In some cases it is believed that the canvassers exceeded their authority. In many instances, perhaps in the majority, it is admitted that they had legal power to throw out the returns, but it is contended that they exercised that power unjustly, for insufficient reasons. It is probably too much to expect that the Court will pronounce an opinion upon these alleged abuses of authority. Finally, after the judges have spoken—if they do speak—it is not clear how an effect is to be given to their rulings. Mr. Springer reminds us that the Board of Canvassers is *functus officio*, and cannot undo the wrong it has perpetrated. The certificates have already been delivered.

It remains for the Legislature itself to accept or reject the candidates who were counted in. This is undoubtedly the position which a great many Democrats will be likely to take in the event of an unfavorable opinion from the Supreme Court. But Mr. Morrill assures the Governor that there are precedents for recalling a certificate improperly issued, and recalls the fact that there are several disfranchised towns in which nobody has been awarded a certificate. In any event, an authoritative interpretation of the law will be of value to inform the conscience of the Legislature and of the individual candidates.

Whatever the outcome, as we said before, a reference to the Court is greatly to be desired. It will define the position which the Republican party must occupy in this crisis, and it will check an agitation that may lead to the most deplorable results. If it should prove, moreover, that the laws of Maine, instead of protecting the ballot-box, are efficient only as traps for voters, then there is no time to be lost in mending them.

WHO SHOULD EMIGRATE?

The St. George's Society of Philadelphia has, it appears, been overrun lately with applications for help from iron and metal workers from the North of England, who had come over here expecting to find employment ready to their hands, bringing only money enough to support them for a few days. They usually went direct to Philadelphia, as the great manufacturing centre, and the demand for skilled laborers there was soon supplied. The Society has sent large numbers of these men to Pittsburg and the coal regions, in hopes that work could be found for them. The President of the Society, Mr. Waterall, has found it necessary to write a letter to *The London Times* discouraging such rash emigration, and stating that the late increase of prosperity in manufacturing pursuits in the States does not justify the immense influx of skilled workmen from Europe. No man, he advises, should come without money to enable him to travel for a few weeks in search of employment. The most significant fact noted by Mr. Waterall, however, is that farm laborers do not apply for help. "We never have an applicant," says the Secretary, "who can plough or milk "a cow." This in spite of the fact that the proportion of farmers and agricultural laborers to mechanics who have emigrated from England to this country is as nine to one. Not only do our vast tracts of waste land offer work to all farmers who choose to come, but there is employment ready for farm laborers nearer the sea-board.

The committee sent out to examine into the chances of success for English tenant farmers have, we learn from *The London Times*, recommended the region lying on the Pacific Railway and Manitoba to all intending emigrants during the coming Spring. Lack of railway transportation will for a time prove a drawback to successful farming throughout the Western British territory on this continent. Even the English farmer who comes to Canada will not long be satisfied with keeping his own family and stock alone on his land, though that may seem much to him now; he will want to throw his products into the Eastern and even the foreign market, to compete with the Western farmer, who has the great conduits of trade centring at Chicago and waiting for him. While on this subject we may note that the opinions upon our trade in England of Colonel Shaw, United States Consul at Manchester, which THE TRIBUNE recently gave, for the benefit of our exporters of beef, dairy products, etc., are strongly supported by the English papers which have copied them from our columns. Colonel Shaw recommended that shipments should be made to responsible houses in England which would keep the shipper advised of the condition of the market, and hence supplies would come when wanted and not by chance, as at present. *The Pall Mall Gazette* (which is not apt to prophesy success to any enterprise undertaken outside of England) indorses this advice as sound, and says: "What will be the growth of imports "into England of American meat, butter, "cheese and fruit when American exporters "wake up to their own interests and take the "English market fairly in hand? They will "not long remain blind to the injury they do "themselves by their present mode of dis-"posing of their goods. They are learning at "last that there is another trade than that "in wheat in which great profits may be "reaped, and they will be curiously untrue to "their own character if they allow the present "hindrances to remain in their way."

This confirmation from an unprejudiced and probably unwilling source of the views of our correspondent is worth consideration by our readers. THE TRIBUNE, in urging the foreign market upon the notice of farmers two years ago, was denounced as visionary and unpractical by timid men. But it appears now to have understated rather than exaggerated the width and practicability of the field.

A HUGE SWINDLE.

The disclosures made in THE TRIBUNE this morning of the extent of the swindling that has been practised by certain bogus Wall Street firms, must cause a sensation in many communities. The public has grown accustomed during the past few months to seeing the stock market flooded with the money of thousands of foolish persons, who were eagerly reaching out their hands from all quarters of the country for a handful of the fabled profits of Wall Street. The revelations of Anthony Comstock show us behind these another great army of dupes, who pour their money out toward Wall Street, never dreaming that every dollar of it goes into the pockets of the swindling firms with which they are dealing, and never for a moment suspecting that not a single dollar is invested in the stocks in which they are assured by return mail they have become interested. The details given of this nefarious business are astonishing. Sawdust and lottery swindles, in their greatest prosperity, could not hope to equal such profits as these. The whole business partnership which united a number of these houses is exposed, by which it is shown that one swindler, who was interested in all of them, was to realize in ten years nearly $2,000,000 as his share of the booty; and the value of the business is sufficiently shown by the stipulation that if his partners should fail at any time to pay him the monthly sum stipulated, he should have the business back! One of these houses is shown, by an examination of its books, to have received from deluded persons all over the country the sum of $205,000 in the eight months ending with last month. The machinery of the swindle is simple and clumsy; that it should have achieved such success is another proof of the irresistible human passion for being fooled.

Wall Street, like many another great institution, bears the burden of sins not its own. Many a dupe of these bogus houses has no doubt cursed Wall Street in his heart, and become a loud enemy of the money power. It is to the interest of all honest dealers in stocks that this business should be broken up, and the result now reached is largely due to their efforts, continued for several years. The decisive blow will be struck to-day. The whole business is carried on through the mails, and to-day an order will be issued by the Postmaster-General stopping the delivery of letters and money orders to eight of these firms, whose names will be found elsewhere. This success will gratify every honest dealer in stocks, and will be an especial relief to those houses whose names the swindling firms have, in some cases, imitated.

THE EXODUS AND MR. VOORHEES.

It has seemed desirable to Mr. Voorhees to have the Exodus investigated. He cannot believe that a general hegira of the laboring class, in any part of the country, can take place without some improper instigation and wrongful motive. Perhaps he hopes to prove that some leading Republicans have conspired to induce the colored people to this movement, in order to alarm the employers of the South and make them less solid in Democracy. But if that were true, and if every dollar of the expense of transporting the colored travellers from a land of oppression to one of liberty had been contributed by Northern politicians, what would there be wrong in their act? In reality, the Southern laborers appear to be moving on their own account, and with means saved by themselves, and there is no trace of political agency in the holding of any meetings or the circulation of any subscriptions to defray their expenses. They go, all the evidence thus far tends to show, because they want to go; because they are not satisfied with the treatment which they receive where they are, and please to exercise the rights of freemen in migrating to some other locality.

Or perhaps Mr. Voorhees hopes to show that there is a deliberate plan to remove from the South thousands of colored voters, who are staunch and unflinching Republicans, to the doubtful Northern States, in order to turn the scale in such States at future elections If this were true, again, what of it? Is it a violation of any written or unwritten law, in this country, to advise men to settle in a region where their votes will count, and where they will be respected because of the influence they can exert, rather than in a region where they are virtually disfranchised? If Mr. Voorhees will look at the matter coolly, he will see that every citizen of this country has a right to settle where his vote will count most, and every other citizen has a right to advise him to do so. It would be a good thing for some Northern States if, instead of the ignorant and vicious and unmanageable persons who fill not a few places of industrial importance, 50,000 willing and teachable colored workers could be induced to offer their services; and it would be all the better if faithful Republican voters of dark skin could thus be brought to illumine the moral darkness of some Democratic strongholds. But there is not the slightest proof, thus far, that any such object has governed the movement of the colored people. Several thousand have gone to Kansas, a State which is sufficiently Republican without any help, while not more than 800 families, it is stated, have thus far found new homes in Indiana, where the election of such a demagogue as Mr. Voorhees proves that great moral and mental darkness exists.

Senator Voorhees will discover, if he makes the investigation thorough, several things which it will not be convenient to his party to have officially stated. He will discover that the colored people of the South are going away in large numbers because they have been subjected to such treatment, industrially and politically, as has never been patiently endured by any free men in any land. They have been cheated and plundered, and in a thousand ways oppressed, and deprived of such educational and business opportunities as they had a right to desire, and robbed of their legitimate political influence, in order that white Democrats might pocket all the profits and hold all the power. The colored men have sense enough to see that they can do a great deal better elsewhere, and they have been patiently saving money until thousands of them are ready to migrate. Mr. Voorhees will find that he cannot stop them, until he can substitute a Democratic despotism for a free Republic. Moreover, he will discover that the colored people prefer to live in thrifty, industrious, civilized and decent communities, and therefore, as a rule, they do not prefer the Democratic strongholds. Keen political managers would doubtless have advised as many as possible to go into districts of darkness and Democracy. But the colored people are looking for new homes, where they can have a fair chance in the race of life; where their work will be paid for as well as the work of white men if it is as good, and where their votes will count just as much as the votes of white men of equal intelligence. It is not strange that few of them, who are shrewd enough to remove at all, care to settle in neighborhoods where men like Mr. Voorhees are considered great statesmen.

POLITICAL PREACHING.

The Maine pulpits resounded last Sunday with vigorous rebukes of the course pursued by Dr. Garcelon and his Council. When a clergyman really makes up his mind to handle professionally a flagrant case of political iniquity, he usually does it without gloves. It must be admitted that the Maine ministers did not mince their words, and the reports of their sermons, if he read them, must have made Dr. Garcelon a fit subject for some of the more soothing of his own medicines. It must have been a sense of grievous wrong which prompted men whose mission is one of peace even to hint at "open systematic war." Some of the clergymen did this; others were equally indignant in their notions of redress.

There are those who think that political immorality should be exempt from clerical rebuke. The late Mr. Choate was of this opinion, and highly eulogized his pastor, the Rev. Nehemiah Adams, D. D., for abstaining altogether from the discussion of politics in the pulpit. During the hot slavery excitement we had two schools of clergymen—those who preached against the institution, and those who delivered sermons with the design of showing why they did not preach against it. Unfortunately, so far as a mere matter of peace and harmony, there was not much between these two classes of clergymen to choose. If those who denounced slavery created ill-feeling, so did those who refused to denounce it. The truth is, it was the morality of the matter which made all the feeling. Slavery being a sin, why not attack it in church as well as elsewhere? This was the question which ardent men were continually asking; and the answers which they received did nothing to allay their righteous wrath.

If political preaching be undesirable, all the more should politicians be careful how they do things which preachers must conscientiously characterize. If Governor Garcelon and his unscrupulous crowd of advisers had been less anxious to count their friends in and their foes out, if they had respected the Constitution and been content with an appeal to the judicial tribunals, the sermons of last Sunday would never have been preached. But when a great piece of public wickedness is threatened, the ministers of the Gospel, being human beings and members of society, will not be muzzled. To ask them to be dumb may or may not be asking too much; but dumb they assuredly will not be. It is no discredit to a clergyman that he has a keen sense of right and wrong. When this is outraged he will, if he has moral courage to speak out, be plainly heard from. If there is to be no such thing as conscience in politics, church members and churchgoers ought to have nothing to do with them. But are we yet quite ready to give up the religious portion of our political constituencies?

ERRORS IN "OFFICIAL" FIGURES.

The extreme difficulty of securing accuracy in the preparation and printing of election returns is well illustrated by two facts shown in the issue of what is known as the "official canvass" of the State of New-York this year. This canvass consists of the certificate of the Board of Canvassers and the accompanying detailed vote cast in each county as finally determined by them. This certificate as to the office of Governor shows that Mr. Cornell received 418,567 votes; that Governor Robinson received 375,790 votes; that Mr. Kelly received 77,566 votes; that Mr. Lewis received 20,286 votes, and that Mr. Mears received 4,437 votes. The whole number of votes cast is reported by them at 901,535. The above figures in the detailed vote make a total of 896,646, or 4,889 less than the total number reported. Accompanying this table is a list of the "scattering" votes for Governor in each county. This "scattering" vote is divided into three classes: "defective" votes, "scattering" proper, and "blank" votes. Footing up the various counties, the "defective" votes are found to number 1,028; the "scattering" number 2,402; the "blank" 1,468; or a total of 4,898. These, added to the votes returned for each regular candidate for Governor, make a total of 901,544, or 9 votes more than the total number returned by the State Board of Canvassers. It is impossible to reconcile the discrepancy, and the only inference possible is that there is an error in the official summary by counties of the total vote to that extent.

But this is not the only error in the official canvass. In the vote for Governor, as canvassed "officially" and printed, Mr. John W. Mears is certified as having received in Cortland County "590" votes. He received but 50 votes, as is shown by the county returns. The footing of Mr. Mears's vote is correctly printed by the State Canvassers as 4,437 votes, but if he had received 590 votes in Cortland his total vote should be 4,977.

What other errors in the "official canvass" there may be as to other State officers need not now be investigated. These facts will serve as illustrations of the difficulties which the Editor of THE TRIBUNE ALMANAC constantly meets in his efforts to present with entire accuracy the results of the elections in the Union. The officials of New-York State make as few errors as those of other States. It is hardly too much to say that no returns, from official or other sources, can be safely accepted as absolutely correct, and that all require the closest revision. The errors pointed out in this paragraph, and many others like them, will be corrected in THE TRIBUNE ALMANAC for 1880, which will be issued within a few days, which will seek to present the fruits of the most careful labor in these departments, and which will be more than ever worthy of the confidence of the public as an authority on the subject to which it relates.

It is to be hoped that Mr. Robert Mitchell, of Cincinnati, will never have occasion to regret the Christmas presents which he made last week to his family. These consisted of a very considerable portion of his property, and were bestowed upon his children and grandchildren. Possibly Mr. Mitchell's attention has been called to the numerous law suits growing out of contested wills, and he has judiciously determined that there shall be no such squabble over his estate. If so, we cannot help thinking him to be a wise man. We know that there is a prejudice against these ante-mortem distributions; and there have been some lamentable cases of fathers who, like King Lear, have given all and have themselves come to want. But we take it for granted that Mr. Mitchell has acted judiciously as well as generously; that he knows to whom he has given; and in any case has kept enough for his own necessities.

The lovers of elegant literature will be glad to hear that the publishing house of Houghton, Osgood & Co. did not suffer so much in the Boston fire as the first account of it seemed to indicate. It would have been a public loss if their stereotyped plates had been destroyed, but these, with the printing machinery of the house, were at the office in Cambridge. So the books which were really destroyed can soon be replaced by reprints. This is a consolation, as the prosperity of respectable book-publishers and book-printers is a matter of general concern.

Garcelon suspects he is sitting on a hornet's nest.

Springer once more calls public attention to his own dimensions as a statesman. He says if he had been Governor of Maine he would not have done what Garcelon did, but if he had done it he should stick to it. That is sound Democratic principle. Morality has nothing to do with it. It is simply a question of backbone. Springer would much rather be called a successful burglar, apparently, than a man afraid of his conscience.

Montgomery Blair has been quiet for a fortnight. No wonder Tilden stock is looking up.

The Maine theft was deliberately planned weeks in advance. The next raid by the Democratic gang of burglars will be upon the Presidency. That is already planned.

Congressman Miles Ross, of New-Jersey, with the Randolph and Parker booms right under his nose, has the cruelty to say that Tilden is the only man whom the Democrats can or will nominate for the Presidency. He says he is convinced of this by evidence which he has received from all parts of the country as a member of the National Democratic Committee. There is abundant evidence to sustain this opinion accessible to every reader of newspapers. The bitter denunciation of Tilden by the journals of his own party has totally ceased. All the booms which have been started to push the barrel out of the field have disappeared. The barrel alone remains.

Whoever was the author of the Maine crime, there is no doubt about who did the dirty work of accomplishment. The main honors for that belong to E. F. Pillsbury. After he has had his due, Garcelon and his Council will come in for a generous share.

Hendricks is wriggling again. The old story of the promises which were made to him in 1876 is revived, and is given out as a great secret, never before revealed. It has been told a dozen times already. As he gives it now he only consented to accept the second place on the understanding that he should have the first in 1880. He says Tilden's agents at St. Louis, Dorsheimer and others, told him that Tilden only wanted one term and would use his influence to make Hendricks his successor. Well, what of that? Tilden can say truly enough that he hasn't had his one term yet. If that isn't a sufficient excuse, he can say that his agents had no authority from him to make such a promise. Moreover, whatever view he may take of the subject will make no difference to Hendricks. If Tilden were dead, there would not be a ghost of a chance for Hendricks next year. There is not a Democratic politician in the country capable of forming an opinion on the subject who won't tell him that.

The World's conundrum about Seymour's ability to carry this State against Grant next year has revived several unpleasant bygones. One Democratic brother is unfriendly enough to say that Seymour's chances would be slim if *The World* should repeat its performance of 1868 and call for his withdrawal from the ticket a few days before election. It is impossible to feel anything but pity for the head or the heart of the man who could heave a brickbat like that at a brother's nose.

A Western admirer of the Bold Brigand of Maine says: "The iron-willed Garcelon stands firmly upon the Constitution and the laws." He does—tramples on them, in fact.

There seems to be a longing in the Democratic party for somebody to steal its capacity for blundering.

The trouble in Maine will come to a head one week from Wednesday, when the Legislature will meet.

While condemning the Maine Democrats for their performances, Mr. John Quincy Adams has a word of rebuke for the Republicans. "The conduct of Mr. Senator Blaine and his bulldozing committee, who have been hanging about Augusta for the past month, is simply disgusting." That seems to be the current Democratic opinion, and it is not unnatural. If Mr. Blaine and his "bulldozing committee" had kept quiet, the theft would have been made before the public knew it, and no protest would have been possible. Mr. Adams recalls the experience of the traditional personage who said: "They stripped me and lashed me on the bare back with a rawhide till I was perfectly disgusted."

It seems to be tacitly admitted by the Calamity Croakers that resumption won't fail this year.

PERSONAL.

Colonel Thomas Scott's first essay in railroad business was made as a station agent at Hollidaysburg, Penn.

Mr. Ramsey, the new Secretary of War, is described by a writer in *The Times*, of Chicago, as tall and very heavy, with gray hair and short side-whiskers, large blue eyes, and broad, good-humored face. He has a bluff and kindly way of talking, and receives the callers at his new office as if he were glad to see them.

A monument to Rabelais is to be erected in his native town in France, and nearly fifty sculptors are competing for the order. An exhibition of models is now being held in Paris. One of the best designs represents the great satirical writer with a manuscript in one hand, which he half conceals with a comic mask held in the other.

Congressman W. P. Frye—whose brother-in-law and family physician, as THE TRIBUNE stated the other day, is Governor Garcelon—wrote this telegram of excuse to the Talbot dinner in Boston on Saturday: "All hail to an honest Governor like Talbot. Cannot greet him personally. Do not wish to eat or drink. Indignation has overcome appetite."

John Wesley's red cornelian seal is now the property of a collector in England. It is engraved with a Roman cross standing on a small mound or elevation, and surmounted by a five-pointed celestial or "martyr's crown." The motto which surrounds it is inscribed in English and in Roman type: "Be thou faithful unto death." The same collector owns the arm-chair of Dr. Watts; it is one of the quaint old diamond-seated chairs.

Martin Luther's betrothal ring has come into the possession of a Düsseldorf jeweller. A Silesian nobleman was the last owner, and its authenticity is fully attested by documents. The ring is of gold, and bears the inscription: "Dr. Martino Luthero. Catharina v. Bora. 13. Juni. 1525." It is elaborately carved to represent the Passion of Our Saviour. In the middle is the Crucifixion, and on either site are shown the hammer, nails, ladder, sponge, hyssop, etc. The head of the High Priest also appears, and a group of Roman soldiers, and there is a tiny ruby to represent a drop of the sacred blood.

Mr. John T. Hoffman, in a private letter to an Albany gentleman, quoted in *The Argus*, says that Gambetta is an admirable and most dignified presiding officer; "but," adds Mr. Hoffman, "I do not think 'Old Salt' himself, or the 'Baldheaded Eagle,' formerly of Westchester and now of Rockland, could keep the French Chamber of Deputies in order. They laugh—they jeer—they clap—they cheer and sneer, and interrupt in every possible way. * * * It was, taken all in all, a poor exhibition of intellectual and oratorical power, but to me it was interesting, for it gave me a chance to see and study some of the 'great men' we read so much about. How true is the old saying that 'Great men, like great mountains, seem smaller as you get nearer to them.'"

Two years ago, when Judge Ingalls, of Troy, was assigned by Governor Robinson to the place of Judge Daniels, in the General Term of the Supreme Court in this (the First) Judicial District, the demand for his retention in his own district was so strong that the Governor found it difficult to insist upon the assignment. Judge Ingalls finally came to New-York, and sat with Chief-Justice Davis and Justice Brady for two years past with great acceptance to the New-York bar. When it was learned recently that there was a possibility of his return to Troy, Chief-Justice Davis, Justice Brady, the Hon. John K. Porter, the City Attorney and many other prominent gentlemen urged Judge Ingalls to remain here at least for another year. An earnest and persistent effort was made to secure his retention, but it was unsuccessful, the Judge insisting that his own district had prior claims upon him. Judge Ingalls, during his two years' residence in this city, proved himself a most learned, conscientious and industrious Justice. He rendered an average of about 170 opinions annually, many of them in very intricate cases.

THE DRAMA.

PARK THEATRE—FAIRFAX.

Another of the plays of the fruitful Mr. Bartley Campbell was made known here last night, at the Park Theatre. This piece is in five acts, and is entitled "Fairfax,"—the name being that of one of its principal characters. The action begins in a squalid hut, on the banks of the Southern Mississippi, and is continued and completed in and around a mansion on the St. John's River in Florida. The time is 1858-'60. The persons are conventional types; the plot is built on an old model; and the piece is written in offusive and straggling prose. The dramatic object sought to be accomplished is the investiture of a woman with circumstances which impede her progress to present happiness, through the menace of an exposure of an alleged dark and painful secret in her past life. After this structural pattern thousands of stories have been written and thousands of plays have been fashioned. Such freshness as animates the present use of this ancient scheme is found in the scenery and accessories of its exhibition—the place, the atmosphere, the social tone—and, to some extent, in the dramatic treatment. An air of the free, picturesque, romantic, and possibly adventurous life of the Southern plantation is, in other words, diffused over it, and, at several points in its movement, the skill of the author has embellished it with effective situation and climax. There would be more substance in the work, a better reason for its existence, and a firmer ground of sympathy with its development of trials and pains,—to say nothing of moral weight, and some sort of practical meaning applicable to human experience,—if its heroine had really ever done a dark deed, or incurred any reproach, or ever stood in need of forgiveness, or ever been burdened with any secret of the least possible importance.

"There's nothing, either good or bad,
But thinking makes it so,"—

yet, as the facts of her career are made known, it simply appears that she has been married to a worthless man, who, when drunk, tried to shoot her, and, in an ensuing struggle between them, accidentally shot himself. The occurrence was seen by a tramp, who, at a critical moment in her subsequent experience, turns up to accuse her of murder, and thus to prevent her, temporarily, from contracting a second marriage. In brief, the piece is the theatrical display of complications consequent upon a preposterous lack of frankness and common sense, and of the dissatisfaction resultant from delayed nuptials. There are minds for which such a spectacle may chance to possess an absorbing interest. Some people are easily pleased. It surely is not needful here to recite all the incidents that go to make up the drama. The reader will sufficiently perceive, from these general remarks upon its drift, that it is one of the many plays which, starting from a confused basis, strain after startling situations through the medium of illogical mechanism; and that the wish to see "how it will turn out" is the sole motive that any spectator can have for following its course. This statement implies the still deeper explanatory fact that no attempt has been made to impress by the characters themselves, apart from what they suffer and act. In the higher order of fiction it is not unusual to find that even a trite experience is made significant,—that is to say, instructive, or pathetic, or ennobling, or in some way interesting,—by means of qualities of character in the persons who are implicated in any given mesh of events. In this drama, *Mrs. Marrigold* who wishes to marry *Mr. Fairfax*, *Mr. Fairfax* who wishes to marry *Mrs. Marrigold*, *Mr. Webster Winns* who first accuses *Mrs. Marrigold* of the murder of her husband and afterwards admits that the shooting was accidental and that the unlamented *Marrigold* is still extant, *Dr. Gaylord* who with his little eye saw *Marrigold* die and is able to state that yellow fever was the cause of his demise—these and all the other individuals who participate in this tale of "the sunny South," which might equally well be a tale of the moony North or the starry East, are little more than so many names. The lady, indeed, seems capable of taking her emotional troubles with much inward disturbance and much loud and emphatic volubility, and the gifted *Fairfax* is seen to be loaded to the muzzle with sentimental gab. But, all the persons of the piece, taken together, have not character enough among them to make one *Tony Lumpkin*, one *Bob Acres*, one *Mildmay*, one *Chalcote*, one *Esther Eccles*, one *Mabel Vane*, one *Hester Grazebrook*, one anything that anybody can remember, when at last their copious stream of talk has purled away into blessed silence. Nevertheless, as already said, there is a good tone of actual life about the piece, and there are moments of dramatic effect in it, deftly devised and neatly handled; while the text is flecked, here and there, with bright lines, and while every part of the work is suffused with that earnest sincerity which is so eminently characteristic of its author. Mr. Bartley Campbell always means well. It is a splendid basis—this same sincerity of purpose, steadfast pluck, and frank willingness to dash pell-mell into dramatic effort!—on which to build up the stately structure of a mind that shall be ripe in knowledge of the world, fresh in invention, and clear in its perception and strong in its exercise of the methods in which to use a fine and firm artistic faculty. "Fairfax" is a useful play,—in a period comparatively barren of new dramas of the better class,—but it amounts to nothing more, and it is chiefly notable as a stepping-stone to better things. It was cordially received last night, being smoothly acted by the regular stock company of the Park Theatre, the chief members of which were hailed with the kindly welcome that always awaits theatrical favorites in their own home.

This is a thoroughly well-organized company, and the actors labored so faithfully that they made the piece seem much stronger than it really is. The colloquy between Frederic Robinson and Agnes Booth, in act third, though fantastic to the last degree, was invested by them with a passionate sincerity that could not be resisted; and at the close of this act the author was called before the curtain to receive a warm greeting of the