FINE ARTS.

ORIENTAL CERAMICS.

MR. R. E. MOORE'S COLLECTION OF PORCELAIN, POTTERY, AND OBJECTS OF ART.

There is now on exhibition at R. E. Moore's Art Gallery—Kurtz Building, Madison-square—a collection of Oriental porcelain, pottery, and objects of Oriental art—carvings in ivory and wood, bronzes, gold-lacquers, jades and the rest of the luxurious miscellany—such as has never, to our knowledge, been exposed for sale under one roof in our city, and such as every day that dies makes more and more difficult ever to collect under one roof again. Few persons outside the small circle of those who are making the collection of objects of Oriental manufacture a serious pursuit—at once a speculation and a pleasure—are aware of the great advance that has been taking place in the money value of these objects. It has now become practically impossible for any but men of large fortune to purchase the more valuable pieces of Chinese, Japanese and Persian porcelain, while the growing competition of the great European museums is taking away even from princes and millionaires the power they once enjoyed to enrich their cabinets with these precious objects. Were Duke Francis I. of the Medici to come back again to earth and his possessions, he would find his dukedom too poor to purchase the few specimens that exist of the porcelain made at his factories in 1580, in emulation of the porcelain of India, and which have now passed into the hands of an English collector, and will in the end, no doubt, find an abiding place in the British Museum. For one of these pieces Mr. Fortnum paid at the sale of the Castellani collection in Paris, in 1878, 10,000 francs, about $2,000, which must have been an enormous advance upon the original cost. This piece, our readers will remember, formed a part of the Castellani collection exhibited in this city in 1876 and 1877. In the catalogue of the Castellani collection an anecdote is quoted from the Marquese Campori's work on the porcelain of Ferrara, relating how the Duke of Modena, visiting the palace of the Countess Violante, inquired whether any pieces of majolica painted by Raphael were to be bought. The Duke's wishes being made known, many basins and cups were shown to him, not, indeed, painted by Raphael, but by a certain artist of past times named Gabiccio. The owners of these vases, however, asked such extravagant prices for them, as, for instance, a hundred doubloons ($1,600) for one for which the Duke offered twelve, that he only purchased one of a similar form and a large tortoise for twenty-two doubloons. The latter could be used as a cover or as a basin, and had the inside as well as the outside completely covered with grotesques and figures. This very tortoise, or one answering to the description in every particular, a most splendid example of the ware of Urbino, and attributed to Orazio Fontana, the most famous of the painters on majolica, was in the Castellani collection and so enriched our own Museum for a time. At the sale in Paris in 1878 it fetched twenty-five thousand francs, equal to five thousand dollars, the Duke of Modena having paid for it $352. We do not possess enough facts of this nature to enable us to make many comparisons of the original cost of these objects with the prices obtained for them at the present day, but all that we do know justifies us in the assertion that few products of human skill, outside the fine arts of painting and sculpture, have carried so steadily so high a rate of interest in the market as the majolicas of Italy and the porcelains of the East. And it is certainly wonderful to think how safely they have been handed down from generation to generation! Their immunity from violence and destruction is a testimony to the power of beauty in the world; for only an inborn reverence for beauty could have made rude mankind spare these frail objects for so many years, and leave them intact "when temple and tower went to the ground." No doubt there may still somewhere be found three "Porzelaina," or pieces of porcelain, which after a certain early breakfast in Antwerp in the year 1520 the Portuguese Consul Brandão gave to Albert Durer. But if these pieces were of such a quality that the Consul, who seems to have been a man of fine taste, thought them worthy of Durer's acceptance, it is doubtful whether a Prince to-day would think he could afford to make an offhand present of them or their equals to a mere acquaintance, and Durer to the Portuguese was nothing more. Common ones, these Oriental porcelains, which the Portuguese were the first to bring into Europe (if, indeed, these particular pieces were Oriental ware, and not, as some have thought, Italian majolica), they are now rare, and grow rarer with every year. These which were in commerce, and have all along been bought and sold, are by this time nearly all taken up, and are become the property of nations, or of rich collectors in whose families they may yet linger for a generation. But, as the desire to own specimens of these wares still continues, and as the prices of good pieces have become so great as to make it worth while to search for them, we now find that the shelves and cabinets of Holland, that great treasure-house of the wonders of the potter's art, have begun to stir at the demand of the outside world, and that, at last, after 300 years of slumber in the rich gloom of the brighter palaces of the Northern Venice, the jars and bowls and vases and cups of China and Japan are listening to the cry of the wandering dealers of every clime, who wake the torpid corps with "New lamps for old!" Soon they will be all dispersed, and another of the charms of the Holland of old time will have disappeared. Here, in Mr. Moore's rooms to-day, is a "garniture," as it is called—the set of pieces—three, five and seven—that made the decoration of a chimney-piece—of porcelain decorated with the hawthorn leaves and flower. Two of these pieces were sent to France by a missionary in China; the third, which, except for a slight difference in size, exactly matches the others in the tone of the blue and in the thickness of the ware, came out of an old house in Holland, sold for the second time in its European life after centuries of dignified repose, and now joins its old comrades in a land which was hardly known to Europe when these jars were made.

The most valuable pieces in Mr. Moore's collection, estimating them by their market value, are those of Chinese make. The most costly piece is a vase about eighteen inches high, and belonging to the "*famille verte*" (Green family), owing its name of course to the predominance of green in the decoration. Then we have the *famille rose*, *famille blue*, and the *famille chrysanthemo-pronienne*, this last named, not from its color, but from the fact that chrysanthemums and peonies are employed in the decoration. These names, generally adopted by connoisseurs at present, were introduced by the late M. Albert Jacquemart in his history of Ceramics, and though not very precise are convenient enough. The vase of which we are speaking belongs then to the *famille vert*. It has a curiously mixed decoration consisting of vignettes, two on each of the two opposite sides, one above the other, while on the remaining two sides—the term "side" is used for convenience, though the vase is cylindrical—the decoration consists of large Chinese letters in black, the entire ground being covered with small branches of the so-called hawthorn, in flower. The black glaze employed belongs to the finest period, and Mr. Moore considers this vase as the most valuable object in his collection. It has already been sold, but is still on view. The price obtained for it was $1,000. This price, though perhaps not an extraordinary one for the European market, yet shows in a striking way the great advance made in our city both in the condition of the market and in the educated taste, or, if the reader pleases, the educated perception in speculative matters by our rich men. Twenty years ago no dealer here would have dreamed of asking such a price for a piece of porcelain, and no one would have been found to purchase a piece at that price had a dealer been found to ask it. To-day, it has half a dozen competitors for its possession before it is unpacked. Another vase, also of Chinese make, belongs to the rose family. It is the same size as the other, and resembles it in shape, but the decoration is all in one color, a sort of orange-red. About the neck the symbolical sign of longevity is used as an ornament. On two of the opposite sides are vignettes with birds and fishes, and on the other two sides are large dragons. We must also mention two vases purchased in Holland from a house in which they had been for many years—vases of the so-called egg-shell porcelain, with flowers in slight relief, and with painted panels containing figures, the faces being slightly raised, owing to the thickness of the enamel in which they are painted. These vases are seventeen inches high, and Mr. Moore assures us that no museum in Europe, not even that of Dresden, contains such a pair. Like the others we have described, these also are sold, and might easily have been sold two or three times over.

We have mentioned these costly and rare specimens first, because their rarity and costliness seem to entitle them to some consideration, but we are free to confess that our affections do not go out to them; we find ourselves much happier in the company of other members of the potter's family, although these others are not, in fact, less rare or costly; but then their claim upon our liking is founded on qualities that have nothing in common with those that as a rule attract rich connoisseurs.

We are not so willing to confess our lack of power to go all lengths with the devotees of the Hawthorne Blue. Mr. Moore has a set, which we have already mentioned, and which is no doubt an extraordinary assemblage of extraordinary pieces. There are in all in the "garniture" five pieces, but the main ones are three in number—two pairs with covers, each about twenty inches high, and one better shaped piece of nearly the same dimensions. They are of the finest color and of the finest paste, while the shapes are also of the best, symmetrical and dignified. The decoration, consisting of the branches and blossoms of the hawthorn—according to the highest amateurs—the French calling it the prunus or plum tree—with some conventional pattern around the neck, is believed to be from the hand of the finest workman on the "old blue," and, taken all together, for shape, size, paste, color and treatment, such a set of Hawthorn has has never before been seen here, has rarely been seen anywhere, and may never be seen again. And yet—

"Faultily faultless, icily regular, splendidly null,"

is the verdict an æsthetic conscience sings in the presence of all these rare and high priced wonders. We look at them respectfully, and then exclaim: "What to us is this quintessence of dust? The *famille verte* delights us not, nor the *famille rose* neither"; we are for the more human and spontaneous members of the household of Keramos. But, whither shall we turn? Shall it be to this case filled with small but exquisite specimens of old blue, their shapes no less than their decoration carrying us not to China but to Persia? There is somehow a link of parentage between these shapes and those of the Greek pottery, and yet their Orientalism is indisputable, but it is not the Orientalism of China or Japan. It is finer, more reserved in form, and, if the reader please, more monotonous in its decoration than the porcelain of either of these countries, and though it dates from China and may have been made there, the genius that made it was inspired by Persia. The most costly, but at the same time the most beautiful of all these beautiful pieces of "old blue," is a pair of bottles about five inches high, which have been bought by a collector of this city.

In the same case with the "old blues" are the "old whites" and if we must choose between them, we give our voice for the white. Anything more satisfying to the spirit cannot, we should think, be found than this white saucer with its design incised in the paste before being glazed, and only to be seen when held up to a strong light or when the dish is filled with water. Delicate as a rose-leaf, and of a texture more like that of glass than porcelain, it is the very consummation of the potter's art, and makes all but the very finest of the Japan se lacquers look coarse in the comparison. The circular device in the centre is the mystic Yang and Yin, the union of the male and female elements in Nature. There are several other pieces of old white here, many of them of extreme rarity and also of beautiful form—among them two bottles, one of a gourd shape, the other a sort of squat bottle with an ornamentation in the former slightly relieved on the surface; in the latter incised in the paste before glazing. These pieces are remarkable less for their beauty than for the extreme fineness of the paste. The surface is not smooth, but looks as if it were moulded while in the condition of butter rather than in that of cream, and the texture is as pleasing to the eye as to the touch. The gourd-shaped piece is interesting as having been brought from Corea by Mr. Sichel, a well-known dealer of Paris, who visited Corea, and who is of the opinion that the piece was made there.

There are here many specimens of pottery and porcelain which can only be alluded to, for an attempt to describe such things is of little use except in the presence of the things themselves. That we must at least mention for the guidance of the inexperienced visitor a few of the more remarkable pieces, reminding him that every day diminishes the collection by the subtraction of purchased pieces, and that he must go soon, if he hopes to see the best in a display where nothing is inferior. He must not fail to see the "turquoise," the pure color, beside which even "the blue of the sky between the clouds after the rain," the ideal aimed at by the decorators of the Hawthorn pattern, seems almost cold, and the "molded" and "fluted" varieties of the same rich color. The yellow vases of China, too, are very satisfying to the eye, and Mr. Moore has several fine specimens—the musk and yellow, with decorations in color, the same but with a cracked surface, and the plain imperial yellow. There is also a fine piece—a fine vase of the gourd type, with an elaborate color decoration in enamel, which came from the summer-palace of the Emperor of China, burned and pillaged by the English in the opium war. Here, too, are specimens of the highest quality of the "ground celadon," the "bronze," the "celadon," the "coral," the "rainbow," the splash, and the "sang-de-bœuf" glaze, many of them perhaps never before, we believe, offered for sale on this side of the water.

Apart from the rarity and the intrinsic beauty of the specimens in this rich collection, we have been drawn to this extended notice of it by our conviction that if the potter's art is ever to be developed on any considerable scale in this country, we must set before our people the finest models that can be procured, of what has been accomplished in this kind. We ought to see the best that has been done, and we ought to be taught by actual inspection the wonders that have been accomplished in overcoming difficulties of every sort; by patience, by labor, and by the artistic sense working upon materials that, intractable as they seem in theory, do really lend themselves with almost human intelligence to the service of him who decreets to master them. The Orientals are our teachers in the art of the potter, but we ought not to be willing to them servingly; only follow their example in following nature, and striving to reflect the beauty they saw about them under their own sky and in their own lands. We cannot buy Mr. Moore's collection; it is being too rapidly dispersed for any one of our public museums to get possession of it, out with something of it we should, at least, as we said, and let us hope that large accessions to those who purchase its specimens will often make it possible for their fellow-citizens to see and study these inimitable creations of man's fancy and skill.

MYSTERIOUS DEATH BY DROWNING.

Three well-dressed women called at Coroner Darren's office, Long Island City, last evening, and said that they wished to make arrangements for the burial of the body of the woman found floating in the East River, at the foot of Eighth-st., Hunter's Point, Saturday morning. One of the women said that she was the deceased woman's sister, and gave her name as Frances Hardy, of No. 210 Sackett-st., Brooklyn. Before the Coroner she said that the dead woman's name was Mrs. Isabella Parsons, aged thirty. She and her two friends were reluctant to give their names and numbers. At first Miss Hardy said that her home was in Greenpoint.

She explained further that her sister was born at Jamaica, L. I., that her husband had been dead several years, and at the time of her disappearance, Tuesday evening, October 26, she was living with Charles Targaet, at No. 758 Leonard-st., Greenpoint. Miss Hardy and her companions identified the clothing, shoes and bracelets of the dead woman. Miss Hardy knew of no reason why her sister should have taken her life. She was troubled with heart disease, and it was suggested that possibly she fell overboard from a ferryboat. The inquest will be continued Tuesday evening.

A SWINDLER ON THE GERMANIC CAUGHT.

William Trethewey, of New-London, Conn., went on board the steamer Germanic Saturday afternoon, having engaged passage to Europe. A stranger introduced himself to Trethewey, and as the steamer did not sail the two men went ashore and into a barroom. Here they were joined by a third man, who presented a bill to the stranger. The latter had no money, and Trethewey lent him $21 16, the stranger promising to return the money when they went back to the steamer. Soon the two men left Trethewey, who discovered that he had been swindled. One of the men, however, who said his name was George D. Williamson, was arrested. In his pockets were found some vignettes resembling bonds and a certificate of the Gold Mining Company for $100.

At the Jefferson Market Police Court yesterday Williamson was held for trial in default of $500 bail, and Trethewey, who said he was a stonecutter and was about to return home to England, was sent to the House of Detention.

BURIAL OF A CHINAMAN.

Moon Agnen, a Chinaman, of No. 22 Mott-st., died from consumption last Wednesday. He was twenty-six years old and had been in this city about five years. He worked in a laundry. During his illness, which lasted some months, he was attended by a white physician, and his body was buried yesterday in the Cemetery of the Evergreens by James Naughton, a Mott-st. undertaker. The funeral was attended by many Chinamen in the city, who performed the usual Chinese rites at the grave.

PREPARING FOR REAPPORTIONMENT.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Nov. 7.—General Walker will probably send to Congress by the 1st of January, and possibly by the middle of December, all the necessary information upon which to base a reapportionment of Congressional representation. For the convenience of members of Congress, General Walker, in reporting the ninth census, compiled tables showing the number of representatives to which each State would be entitled on an assumption of an increase of the total number to 250, 260, 270, 283, 292 and 300. He will probably make tables of the same character respecting the present census, but will increase the number so that, when Congress shall have decided the total number of members which it is desirable to have, it may refer to the corresponding table and find the apportionment already made.

THE FIRE RECORD.

A $35,000 FIRE AT DOVER, N. H.

DOVER, N. H., Nov. 7.—The most destructive fire for years broke out here about 3 o'clock this morning in a large four-story frame building owned by Ira W. Nute, and occupied by Strong & Burt and Charles Dore, shoe manufacturers. The loss on the shop is $10,000, and insurance $5,000. Strong & Burt's loss on stock and machinery is about $8,000, and is insured. Charles Dore's loss is $4,000 and insurance $3,000. The loss on Ira W. Nute's house and barn is $4,000, and insurance $2,500. Edward Gervill loses a double house and two barns; loss, $3,500; insurance, $1,200. Joshua Parker a double house and barn; loss, $2,500; insured. Samuel Rockley a barn; loss, $1,000, insured; and E. W. Bill dell his shop; loss, $300. A number of other buildings were considerably damaged. The total loss will foot up about $35,000, with $20,000 insurance. The water gave out early, and had it not been for the wet condition of the buildings from the rain then falling the destruction would have been much larger.

A poet asks: "Have you lived the songs you sing, love?" If he sings "We won't go home till morning," no doubt he has lived at least one of them.—[Norristown Herald.

GENERAL FOREIGN NEWS.

LONDON CRITICS ON BOOTH.

A FAVORABLE JUDGMENT ON THE WHOLE — MR. BOOTH INVITED TO GERMANY.

LONDON, Nov. 7, 1880.

Mr. Booth has been invited to appear in Germany. Commenting on Mr. Booth's performance as *Hamlet* at the Princess's Theatre last evening, *The Times* says:

The performance was eminently interesting and successful. Mr. Booth was master of his resources, and gave a thoroughly intelligible and consistent reading of his part. He departs less than we are accustomed to from the text, and is so much the more acceptable. The part is carried out with scholarly attention to detail. His delineation has the effect, though sometimes spoiled by exuberance of gesture, of being beautifully musical and distinct. His expression of fear at the first appearance of the *Ghost* offered rather a bad augury in the beginning. His acting here was laboured and tricky, but as he proceeded Booth quite dispelled apprehension. The wit of the part was effectively brought out, and the dry conceits, which have become as familiar as household words, seemed novel from the way in which they were uttered. Booth had a very warm reception and was enthusiastically applauded by the whole house.

THE PERFORMANCE "ESSENTIALLY REFINED."

The Daily News says:

No popular favorite on our stage could have enjoyed a more cordial reception. Though there were some slight tokens of opposition from some parts of the house, yet on the whole, the welcome was extremely enthusiastic. His countenance is striking and expressive. His features are quick to indicate fleeting shades of thought or feeling. His movements are remarkably graceful, and his gestures and tones are always appropriate. His performance is not any new conception. In the play scene he falls somewhat short of the excitement of the situation. His struggle with *Laertes* is merely ordinary. Nearly all the depth of pathos while he is dying in the arms of *Horatio* is sacrificed in his restless movements. Altogether, Mr. Booth's impersonation does not leave the impression of a great performance, though it is essentially refined.

"COLD AND CLASSICAL TO A FAULT."

The Daily Telegraph says:

Mr. Booth was received with a cordiality that occasionally rose to genuine enthusiasm. There was an important representative audience to welcome him as a student of refined excellence. Though we are occasionally disposed to doubt the absorbing influence of Mr. Booth's performance, yet he made such an impression that every new part in which he plays cannot fail to absorb attention. The naturally ideal *Hamlet* seems, however, to have been omitted from the programme. Although the audience was fascinated by Mr. Booth's clear, measured delivery, the performance was too intellectual and correct to a fault. It is to word the close of the farewell to *Ophelia* that there appeared for the first time, evidences of a human, natural *Hamlet*. Mr. Booth's manner wants sympathy, pleasing, and persuasion. Mr. Booth made the best effect in the play scene. The performance was cold and classical to a fault. In the churchyard scene Mr. Booth revived wonderfully, and interested the audience at a late hour, but the fencing and death scenes were singularly ill-managed and ineffective. He did not lose his hold on the audience, however, during the entire performance.

"A THOUGHTFUL SCHOLAR."

The Observer says:

Momentary satisfaction alternates with disappointment throughout the whole of Booth's performance. A subtlety which begins with a premise of natural effect ends in mere rhetorical display. A clever piece of new or unusual business dies away in measured obedience to the artificial mannerisms of conventional tragedy. Booth is at his best in the highly efficient interview with *Ophelia*; at his worst where anything like ease or humor is required. The general impression we received from the performance is that he belongs to the large class of uninspired actors who have learned their lesson carefully. It is only just to admit that there are certain interesting details in his performance and readings, the best of which cannot here be worthily discussed. His rendering of several of the most important passages is that of a thoughtful scholar cramped by tradition.

"RESPECT RATHER THAN ADMIRATION."

The Standard says:

Mr. Booth's performance was a disappointment. It awakened respect rather than admiration. His *Hamlet* is an intellectual study of considerable merit. He himself is a practised actor, but throughout there is somewhat wanting, and the sympathy of the audience is not complained in this head. We ought to see the best that has been done, and we ought to be taught by actual inspection the wonders that have been accomplished in overcoming difficulties of every sort by patience, by labor, and by the artistic sense working upon materials that, intractable as they seem in theory, do really lend themselves with almost human intelligence to the service of him who decreets to master them. The Orientals are our teachers in the art of the potter, but we ought not to be willing to them servingly; only follow their example in following nature, and striving to reflect the beauty they saw about them under their own sky and in their own lands. We cannot buy Mr. Moore's collection; it is being too rapidly dispersed for any one of our public museums to get possession of it, out with something of it we should, at least, as we said, and let us hope that large accessions to those who purchase its specimens will often make it possible for their fellow-citizens to see and study these inimitable creations of man's fancy and skill.

THE FRENCH RELIGIOUS CONFLICT.

PARIS, Nov. 7, 1880.

At a large meeting held here to-day a resolution was adopted demanding the suppression of the budget of the Ministry of Worship and the separation of Church and State.

The interment of non-authorized religious bodies took place yesterday at Lille, Roubaix, Valenciennes, Ally and Pau. Five persons were arrested in Paris on Friday for obstructing the police in executing the decrees and have been sentenced variously to fines and to thirty days' imprisonment. M. Lepelletier, a member of the Council of Ministers, and M. Prunelle, Prefect of the Department of Oise, have resigned.

Bombs have been thrown at the Prefecture at Nantes.

THE FIGHTING IN PERSIA.

THE KURDISH LEADER REPULSED WITH GREAT LOSS.

LONDON, Nov. 7, 1880.

Sheik Abdullah has advanced against Urumiah with 8,000 troops, but has been repulsed with great loss. The Kurds are now encamped eight miles from Urumiah.

A dispatch to *The Standard* from Teheran says: "Mr. Wright, an American missionary, has arrived here with the English Consul. They left the Mount Seir Mission Station, near Urumiah, on the 28th ult., escorted by a Russian guard furnished by Sheik Abdullah. Mr. Wright was the only American missionary remaining at Urumiah, but the Kurds refused to allow any communication with him. Other Americans remained at Mount Seir, and were unmolested. Sheik Abdullah had crucified thirty Kurds for committing excesses."

FIGHTING IN SOUTH AFRICA.

CAPE TOWN, Saturday, Nov. 6, 1880.

On the 31st of October the mountain stronghold of the Basuto Chief, Moshesh, was successfully stormed by Colonel Clarke's forces. During this operation 5,000 Basutos attacked the Colonial detachment holding Chief Lerothodi's village, and before reinforcements could arrive a small body of them were surrounded on all sides, and five were killed. The enemy advanced in great numbers, compelling the Colonials to retreat in an orderly manner and relinquish their position. The Frontiersmen now in open rebellion, and reinforcements are being sent to all important points.

A BURNING CARGO.

LONDON, Monday, Nov. 8, 1880.

The British steamer Topaze, Captain Corbold, from New-Orleans October 14, and North Sydney the 16th, where she put in for coal, has arrived off Falmouth. Her cargo has been on fire for two days. Eighteen feet of water were pumped into the burning compartments, and large holes have been cut in the deck through which to hoist up the burning cargo.

EXCITEMENT IN DUBLIN.

DUBLIN, Monday, Nov. 8, 1880.

The announcement that the Channel fleet has been ordered to the Irish coast has caused indescribable excitement.

Mr. Parnell addressed a large land meeting at Athlone on Sunday. The usual resolutions were passed.

At the opening of the meeting at Athlone the platform fell and several persons were severely bruised. One of the principal supports of the platform was afterward found to have been sawn through.

THE EXPELLED SOCIALISTS.

LONDON, Monday, Nov. 8, 1880.

The Daily News's Berlin correspondent reports that the Socialists ejected from Hamburg will probably go to the United States. Herr Fritzsche, a Socialist Deputy, is about to go to America to inquire into the condition of the laboring classes.

SKOBELEFF'S EXPEDITION.

LONDON, Monday, Nov. 8, 1880.

A dispatch to *The Daily News* from St. Petersburg reports that auxiliary forces for General Skobeleff have left Turkestan, and that General Skobeleff's expedition will be ready to start in a week.

PRINCE GORTSCHAKOFF SICK.

LONDON, Monday, Nov. 8, 1880.

The correspondent of *The Daily News* at Berlin says Prince Gortschakoff is reported to be very ill and unlikely to recover.

DULCIGNO TO BE CEDED.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Nov. 7, 1880.

At a council of the Ministers yesterday it was proposed to the Sultan that he should order Derwisch Pacha to surrender Dulcigno at any cost.

FOREIGN NOTES.

LONDON, Nov. 7, 1880.

The bullion withdrawn from the Bank of England Friday was £141,000 [about $705,000] in American eagles and bars for shipment to the United States, and £100,000 [about $500,000] in sovereigns for shipment to Canada.

TORONTO, Nov. 7.—The football match yesterday between the teams of the Michigan University, of Ann Arbor, and Toronto University was won by the former by a goal and touch-down to nothing.

The Standard's correspondent at St. Petersburg reports that the Treaty of Livadia has been renewed for two months more. The negotiations with the Marquis Tseng, the Chinese Ambassador, are assuming a more definite form.

The date of the sculling match between Trickett and Wallace Ross has been changed to the 29th of the present month. *The Sportsman* says that the oarsman, Wallace Ross, of St. John, N. B., who is to row in the Thames regatta, has a very bad cold.

A St. Petersburg dispatch to *The Daily News* says: "Ordinary rye bread has risen to double the usual price. Great scarcity exists in St. Petersburg and in various provinces, which the American competition in wheaten flour obviously fails to meet."

Commander Byron Wilson, commanding the United States ship Wachusetts, reports to the Navy Department, under date of Chimbote, Peru, October 15, that he expected to be at Panama about the middle of November.

THE TRAPPINGS OF THE TOMB.

SOME FACTS ABOUT UNDERTAKERS.

EXTENT OF THEIR BUSINESS IN THIS CITY—FASHIONS IN FUNERALS—WHAT IT COSTS TO BE BURIED.

There are more than 175 undertakers in the City of New-York, and the number is swelled to 200 by the addition of coffin-dealers and furnishers of undertakers' goods, hardware, etc. The undertaker's lot is not generally looked on as a happy one, but the men in the business are not apparently gloomier as a class than those in other trades. The undertaker's work does not seem repulsive to him, however it may appear to other people.

What does his work consist of? He first makes his bargain. Then he prepares the body for burial. This done he places it in the coffin. Frequently he is called upon to insert the funeral notices in the papers. He furnishes candelabra when desired; he gives notice to the minister and sends a carriage for him; he places the invariably squeaking camp-stools in position; he seats the people; he sees the body laid in the grave; in fine, he superintends the entire funeral. But does he weep with them that weep? No, for he is simply earning his livelihood. He becomes hardened to tears and mourning; in fact, he is complacent and even happy, though through constant practice he wears a long face; he is earning his money and rejoices in the prospect of speedy payment. But this prospect is not always realized. One of the oldest undertakers in the city, oldest not in years but in the business, James Winterbottom, said to a TRIBUNE reporter recently:

"I have been an undertaker in this city for thirty-five years. Up to the year 1877 over $160,000 was owing to me for funerals. It is still owing to me, together with a few thousands more that have accumulated since. Although I am pretty well off to-day in this world's goods, yet I would like to change what I have now for what I have lost. By far the greater portion of this loss is the result of trusting rich people, the poor, in most cases, proving far more worthy the title of honest. Out of every 100 funerals not more than twenty-five are really profitable to us."

Undertakers have printed forms which they fill out and place on file. These are not cheerful documents to contemplate, recording as they do particulars as to the place of death, name, date of death, age, security, "casket," coffin, plate, number of handles, open or closed hearse, carriages, ferriages, location of grave, shroud, tenting body, board or box, name of deed, number of grave, date and place of funeral. But the undertaker reads over these woeful words with calm indifference. And when preparing coffins in his workshop, he whistles as lightly as does the schoolboy trudging past his door; occasionally pausing to shout to his assistant in an adjoining room such questions as these: "How that lee-board seat to No. — Sixth-ave. yet?" or, what was that last measurement?" Receiving an affirmative reply to the former inquiry, and the answer "five feet four and a half, sir," to the latter, he continues his operations and hummer as before.

The prices of coffins range all the way from $3 for children and $10 for adults up to $100. "Caskets," as coffins of a certain shape and style are called, cost from $12 for children and $30 for adults up to $200, and over. The average "casket" therefore is worth twice as much as a coffin of corresponding material. A "casket" requires far more trimming and work than a coffin; in fact, the furniture alone of a casket is worth more than a complete robe of the same grade. There are distinctions in the styles of coffins just as there are in those of clothes and household decorations. At present cloth covered "caskets" are in favor. "Undressed caskets" are manufactured on a large scale at Rochester, N. Y.

Mr. Brown, former sexton of Grace Church, who died recently, was the most noted sexton in the city, and his prices were the highest. He charged $500 for a "casket" which any other undertaker would have furnished for $200, and he always had a host of customers in spite of such charges. A certain class of people always pay the highest price for everything, and seem to delight in so doing.

A large stock of shrouds and habits is frequently to be found in some room at the undertaker's at prices ranging from $2 to $25. "These are often prepared with great ingenuity," remarked one of the trade, "so that in a darkened room the most common ones will pass for a better thing. One of the 'tricks of the trade' is the placing of the name plate and inscription upon a coffin lid. This coffin-plate warfe great care must be made, and the persons present at the funeral are likely to be illiterate. There being no time to engrave a plate, some ancient cast-off one and bearing a totally different inscription and culled from a pile of store rubbish is substituted."

MIDNIGHT WEATHER REPORT.

GOVERNMENT INDICATIONS.

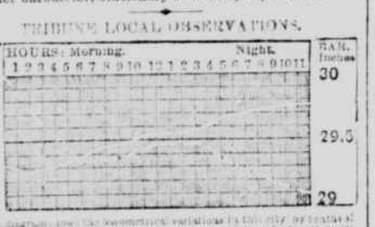
WASHINGTON, Nov. 8, 1 a. m.—The barometer is highest in the East Gulf States. The storm central yesterday over Lake Ontario has moved northeastward over the Gulf of St. Lawrence, followed by westerly gales of unusual violence in the Lower Lake region and along the Atlantic coast from Cape Hatteras northward. Rain has fallen occasionally in all districts, except Tennessee, the South Atlantic and Gulf States. Excepting in the Lower Lake region, clear weather now generally prevails. The temperature has fallen very decidedly in the Atlantic States, but has risen decidedly in the Mississippi and Missouri Valleys. Frosts were reported on Sunday morning from the entire Gulf states, except along the immediate coast, from New-Orleans westward. Northwesterly winds are reported from the Atlantic coast; elsewhere they are Southerly or variable.

Indications.

For the Middle States, clear or partly cloudy weather, westerly backing to southerly winds, slowly rising temperature, stationary or lower barometer.

For New-England, clear or partly cloudy weather, higher barometer, stationary or lower temperature.

TRIBUNE LOCAL OBSERVATIONS.



The diagram shows the barometrical variations in this city or vicinity of Tribune. The barometrical lines give divisions of 10 one for each 24 hours preceding midnight. The irregular white line represents the variations of the temperature during these hours. The motion of rain has corresponded with variations in temperature, as indicated by the thermometer in Hallock's Pneumatic Gauge.

TRIBUNE OFFICE, Nov. 8, 1 a. m.—After 2 a. m. yesterday the movement in the barometer was rapidly upward. Cloudy weather, with occasional rain during the first quarter, was followed by clear and fair weather. The temperature ranged between 37° and 64°, the average (44¾°) being 1° higher than on the corresponding day last year, and 13¾° lower than on Saturday.

Cold in and clear or fair weather may be expected today in this city and vicinity.

CENTRAL PARK OBSERVATIONS.

Abstract of Meteorological Report for October, 1880.

BAROMETER.	Inches.	THERMOMETER.	Degrees.
Mean	30.069	Mean	53.6
Max. (9 a. m., Oct. 1)	30.261	Max. (4 p. m., Oct. 4)	79.0
Min. (7 a. m., Oct. 31)	29.278	Min. (6 a. m., Oct. 28)	35.0
Range	1.055	Range	44.0
Mean temperature in sun, degrees			132.2
Max. temperature in sun, degrees (Oct. 10, 1 p. m.)			135.0
Greatest possible hours of sunshine			339
Actual hours of sunshine			225
No. of days on which no clouds passed over sun			7
Prevailing direction of wind			NW
Total movement of wind, in miles			5,172
Maximum force of wind, in miles per sq. ft.			14.7
No. of days on which rain fell			8
Total duration of rain, in hours			48.5
Total rainfall, in inches			2.79
Mean force of vapor, in inches			.341
Mean relative humidity			81

FATAL RESULT OF AN ELECTION AFFRAY.

Detective Curry, of the Eleventh Precinct, arrested Charles Smith, age 18, of No. 329 East Twenty-second-st., yesterday, charged with having struck Henry Christman, of No. 251 Second-st., on the head with a club on the night of election day, causing his death. Smith will be taken before the Coroner to-day.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

THE PASSION PLAY.

LETTER FROM THE REV. W. J. SMITH, SECRETARY OF THE MINISTERIAL UNION OF SAN FRANCISCO—A SPECTACLE WHICH EVEN THAT COSMOPOLITAN CITY WOULD NOT TOLERATE—FORBIDDEN TWICE BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS—A SUGGESTION FOR NEW-YORK.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: I have before me the announcement of the early departure from our city of Manager Maguire, James O'Neil and Henry Widmer to assist in the preparations for the production of the Passion Play at Booth's Theatre. I have read with pleasure your manly defence of the moral and religious feelings of the people of our so-called Christian land, and if you will allow me space I will give you the voice of the Pacific, as uttered by cosmopolitan San Francisco, when a like attempt was made here.

During the Lenten season of 1879 in the papers, under the head of "amusements," and flaring among the theatrical bills, crossed with sham blood, was the announcement that Salmi Morse would produce at the Grand Opera House, as a spectacular drama, "The Passion of our Lord," with all the accessories and appurtenances of the stage. He would lift the veil upon scenes into which "angels desired to look but were not able." For one dollar per head he would trample under foot the blood of the crucified, and present to the prurient gaze of an unhallowed throng the strange, deep, holy mysteries of our religion. Such a shock to the moral sensibilities of every true man and woman raised such a storm of condemnation from every denomination and all the better class of people that the attention of the authorities was called to the matter at once. A committee of the Board of Supervisors waited upon the manager, and requested the withdrawal of the play from the boards, but was flatly refused. At the next meeting of the Board the following order was unanimously passed, and in due time became a law:

Section 1. It shall be unlawful for any person to exhibit or take part in exhibiting in any theatre or other place where money is charged for admittance, any play, performance or representation displayed, or tending to display, the life and death of Jesus Christ, or any play, or performance, or representation calculated or tending to profane or degrade religion.

Section 2. Any person violating the provisions of this order shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and punished by a fine not exceeding $1,000, or imprisonment not exceeding six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

In a further attempt to continue the play, Mr. James O'Neil, who personated our Redeemer, was arrested, tried, and convicted of violation of the ordinance, and sentenced to pay a fine of $50 or twenty-five days imprisonment. At the last presentation part of the staging fell, and two of the actresses were badly injured. One of them has never fully recovered, and has since sued the management for damages. The condemnation of press and pulpit, and the prompt action of the authorities at once put a stop to this outrage upon every sense of propriety, and the most sacred and holy feelings of every Christian heart.

A year passed away, and the matter had been almost forgotten, when lo and behold! Mr. Salmi Morse, this Israelite, in whom there is very much guile indeed, appears before the new Board of supervisors, and petitions that body to remove the stigma placed upon his play by the previous Board, that he might take it, shorn of all restriction, without any precedent established of prohibition for any other city to follow. He characterized the ordinance as "an invasion of civil liberty," and prayed the Board to repeal it. It was claimed the first Board acted hastily under the excitement of the hour; but now a year had passed away, it could be discussed calmly and dispassionately. And it was. Large hearings were given pro and con. The representatives of the Ministerial Union of San Francisco, composed of all the evangelical denominations of the city, had spoken, plead for its continued suppression, with fearless earnestness and power than before, and again the Board, in the guardians of the morals of the city, unanimously refused to allow such a travesty upon sacred things to be enacted in every Protestant heart to be the head in our midst. We do not hold up our city as a paragon of virtue or morality, but her voice has been clear upon this issue at least, and is worthy a hearing even in the ears of her rival sister of our land. Let your authorities remember they are the guardians of not only the morals but the morals of your city, and as the centre of a Protestant region that will resent the crucifixion of Christ; and let them by prompt action repel those who would turn the blood of the Christ into a mockery, who would strip His sufferings, who would strain His last agonies for sport; who would mimic His last prayer, say that things done the man, the soldiers and spectators that ever uttered on mortal ear; "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" let these lands know who would sell Him to the world for a few pieces of silver, that it is not safe for the morality and well-being of any city to crucify the Son of God afresh and put Him to an open shame.

W. J. SMITH,
Secretary Ministerial Union of San Francisco.

San Francisco, Cal., Oct. 26, 1880.

LETTER FROM EDWARD M'PHERSON.

A MISUNDERSTANDING CORRECTED.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: I was misunderstood yesterday by your correspondent as to the strength of parties in the next House. I include in the Republican column Judge Kelley, who was the Republican nominee, and who actively supported General Garfield.

My estimate to-night, after carefully comparing all returns, gives the Republicans 148, the regular Democrats 138