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BOOTH'S THEATRE—8—"The Corsican Brothers."
DALY'S THEATRE—8:15—"She Would and She Wouldn't."
FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE—8—Lady of Lyons
GRAND OPERA HOUSE—8—"In Paradise."
HAVERLY'S 14TH STREET THEATRE—8—"Fritz."
HENDERSON'S STANDARD THEATRE—8:15—"Iolanthe."
NIBLO'S GARDEN—2 and 8—"The Black Flag."
SAN FRANCISCO OPERA HOUSE—8—San Francisco Minstrels.
THALIA THEATRE—2—"Graf Waldmar."
THEATRE COMIQUE—8—"McSorley's Inflation."
THE CASINO—8—"The Queen's Lace Handkerchief."
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Business Notices.

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FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY

MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 1883.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—The building in which a circus performance was being given on Saturday in Berdichev, Russian Poland, took fire and 300 persons were burned to death. ═ At Oldham, England, on Saturday evening, a gang of ruffians created a riotous scene at a meeting at which Mr. Davitt was attempting to speak. ═ The engagement of Edwin Booth at the Residenz Theatre, Berlin, has been prolonged. ═ A rising of Mussulmans in Eastern Roumelia is feared. ═ Marshal Serrano's party in Spain will abide by their programme already announced.

DOMESTIC.—Fire broke out early yesterday morning in the kitchen of the Planters' House, St. Louis, and extended to the servants' quarters; two servants lost their lives and two were injured. ═ Dr. C. W. Hackett, one of the publishers of *The Toesin*, Laconia, N. H., was fatally injured in attempting to escape from a burning building. ═ Severe storms with intense cold have prevailed in the Northwest for several days. ═ There is much indignation felt in Camden, Me., over a change of postmasters. ═ Iron workmen in Fall River and Somerset, Me., threaten to strike against a reduction of wages. ═ Alarm is felt in Arizona over the restlessness of the Apaches. ═ William G. Morris, Collector of Customs at Sitka, speaks enthusiastically of the mineral richness of Alaska. ═ The carriage works of T. G. Sandt, Stoughton, Wis., were burned, causing a loss of $100,000.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.—The steamship Neckar reached this port yesterday with the crew of a burned British brig; many overdue steamships also arrived. ═ The Rev. R. Heber Newton preached another of his series of sermons on the Bible; at St. George's Church the Rev. Mr. Ramsford delivered his first discourse; Dr. Collyer told his hearers "How to be young at eighty." ═ Two breach-of-promise suits have been begun in Brooklyn. ═ The Rev. Mr. Lightbourn reviewed Mr. Beecher's recent lecture at Cooper Union.

THE WEATHER.—TRIBUNE local observations indicate clear or fair and colder weather. Temperature yesterday: Highest, 36°; lowest, 21°; average, 30½°.

An excellent chance for a most rigid application of Civil Service Reform rules is offered in the case of Mr. Tubbs, the postmaster at New-London, Conn. Unless the day has gone by when it was wrong to take undue advantage of the widow and the fatherless he will not pass. The most surprising thing about the story, as it is told in our Washington dispatches, is that Mr. Tubbs was able to secure a renomination.

Details of the attack upon two Americans, Messrs. Emerson and Hulett, in Madagascar, in which the former was instantly killed, show that it was entirely unprovoked. These Bostonians were travelling quietly, and had been received by the natives at some points with kindness. Suddenly they were assailed, and Mr. Emerson was shot down. M. Parent, a French native, was also killed, and Mr. Hulett was seriously wounded. The affair seems to call for some action on the part of this Government beyond the sending of the Enterprise to Madagascar to find out what the French are about. As for the death of Parent, France will undoubtedly see that it is avenged.

Despite the numerous arrests in Ireland within a few days, it may prove that the police have not yet caught the Phœnix Park assassins. The search, however, is kept up with a dogged persistence which promises well for final success. Moreover, it will be strange if the promises of liberal rewards and immunity from punishment do not eventually lead to the discovery and conviction of the murderers. In the cable dispatches concerning the recent arrests much stress is laid on the fact that certain knives have been found which fit the cuts in the clothing of the victims. This does not prove much. Probably there are many knives in Ireland precisely like those which the murderers used. They hardly had weapons of a peculiar kind made for the occasion.

Some of the sermons delivered yesterday in this city and Brooklyn were of more than ordinary interest. The main points of them will be found in other columns of this issue. Mr. Beecher covered a variety of topics, from the chief end of man to the inspiration of the Bible. In setting forth his views on Evolution Mr. Talmage in his peculiar way arrived at the peculiar conclusion that if the doctrine is true, when we eat roast pig, for example, we are devouring our own relatives served up with Worcestershire sauce. The Rev. R. Heber Newton preached again on the right criticism of the Bible, and the Rev. Dr. J. M. Buckley criticised some of the former sermons of the pastor of the Anthon Memorial. The moral of certain remarks made at the temperance meeting in the Masonic Temple is that before inviting a Turk to speak it is well to find out what he is going to say.

The charges in the equity proceedings just begun in the United States Circuit Court against John R. McPherson, Democratic Senator from New-Jersey, are serious enough to ruin him politically, if only they can be sustained. The papers read more like the extracts from a political campaign document than formal charges in an action in court. It is declared that Mr. McPherson has used his political position to further his private fortunes by trying to secure legislation which would oblige the railroads to use certain patents in which he owned an interest. Lobbying is one of the mildest methods he is charged with employing. As we said, these charges are serious if they can be sustained. But it must be admitted that the time at which they were brought detracts from their force. Mr. McPherson himself declares that they are untrue and are intended to injure him when he comes up for reelection to the Senate this week. A letter from Trenton, published elsewhere in this paper, indicates that some of his party friends are not anxious to help him succeed.

ARE REPUBLICANS GOING TO BLUNDER?

It is possible that the fate of the Tariff bill may be virtually decided in both houses during the coming week. Quite a loss of hope as to this measure has appeared since the holiday recess. The impression of many shrewd men in each house is that such amendments are likely to be made that the pending bills will be abandoned by their friends. How would the matter stand if this should turn out to be the result? Its seems especially important to consider this at once, for there are some members who say that they do not think it would be to the interest of the Republican party to have anything done about the matter at this session.

A Republican Congress, at the session of 1881-82, created a Commission to investigate the tariff and to report in what manner and to what extent it should be modified. This Commission was designed to represent the defenders of American industry. It did represent them so completely that the opponents of the present system looked for no report at all favorable to their views. Mr. Hayes had been for years the spokesman of the Woollen Manufacturers' Association, and Mr. Garland the president of the Wool Growers' Association. Mr. Oliver was officially and in personal interests the representative of the Iron and Steel Association, and Mr. Kenner was an especially good representative of the sugar growers. The other members were supposed and actually showed themselves to be in harmony with these; the Commission as a whole represented American industries, and was especially competent to consider their needs. It reported that the tariff ought to be substantially reduced, and that such reduction would be permanently beneficial to the very industries that at the outset might seem most likely to object to it. Moreover, the reduction proposed was on no other classes of imports more important than on those very articles about which the wool growers, wool manufacturers, iron and steel manufacturers and sugar growers were certain to have the strongest interest and the most thorough knowledge.

What good reason can the Republican party give, if it refuses to make reductions recommended by such men? It cannot say that it knows better what would be well for the wool manufacturer than Mr. Hayes, or better what would be well for the iron manufacturer than Mr. Oliver. That kind of claim would hardly have weight with fair-minded and intelligent voters. Neither can it pretend that as to the general need of protecting American industry as a whole it is more earnest or more informed than this Commission, or better able to judge what measures are expedient to that end. When opponents of protection assert, as they now do, that the tariff in its present form is no longer upheld because it is needful or even useful for the protection of industry, but that changes are now resisted solely for the maintenance of oppressive monopolies which have grown up under that system, what have the Republicans to reply? They can affirm with truth that the party has no such aim; that it has no other desire than to promote, strengthen and build up American industry, and defend American labor. But how much weight will its assertion have, in contrast with its refusal to make changes which the Commission has pronounced for the permanent interests of labor and of industry?

This is not all. A Senate committee, led by Mr. Morrill, the father of the protective tariff, has reported a bill substantially embodying in the main the propositions of the Tariff Commission. This bill would reduce the revenue from customs about $45,049,000, namely: on cotton, $3,681,000; iron and steel, $5,200,000; silks, $3,487,000; wool and woollens, $4,845,000; molasses, $6,500,000; sugar, $15,500,000; inland transportation and other charges, $5,400,000; and other items, $6,286,000. No man living can claim to be a more ardent and devoted friend of the American system than Mr. Morrill, nor has any living man taken a larger or more influential part in the framing and adoption of the protective tariff. His colleague next on the committee, Mr. Sherman, is another of those whose earnestness and knowledge have been most abundantly shown. But the modification which these gentlemen and their associates propose, believing that it would be beneficial to industry, it is supposed that the Republican party may refuse to pass. On what ground? Can the party go before the country claiming that Mr. Morrill and Mr. Sherman do not understand the subject, or that they are not earnest and sincere advocates of a sound and genuine protection of industry?

If the party should put itself in this position, it would be confronted at the next session by a Democratic majority. That majority might very easily compose its differences for a time, and make a powerful effort to allay public distrust in order to secure the Presidency by taking up and passing the bill of the Commission or of the Senate committee. It could then cite for its justification such eminent protectionists as Messrs. Hayes, Oliver and Garland, or Messrs. Morrill and Sherman. It could charge with great force that the Republicans had refused to do the same thing only because a few monopolists objected. Would the position then be a desirable one for the Republican party?

Thus far the Democratic party has had nearly a monopoly of the blundering and of the consequent biennial and quadrennial defeats. Unless the Republicans want the lion's share of the getting beaten, they will be careful this year not to take the place of the Democracy in making blunders.

EXCISE LEGISLATION.

The number of excise bills already introduced into the Legislature indicates that much of its time will be taken up with this kind of legislation. Every year many bills are taken to Albany by the representatives of certain Democratic districts in New-York and Brooklyn with the apparent aim of making the retail liquor business easier, safer and more profitable for a not over scrupulous class of dealers.

The excise laws are not the best, probably, that could be devised, but the great fault is in their execution. Yet the legislative records may be searched in vain for any attempt to remedy this great wrong. On the contrary, it is the purpose of these bills to make the execution of the excise laws more difficult. A person found violating them can now be summarily arrested like any other offender. But Senator Grady, "Tim" Campbell and others active at Albany want an act passed to grant special privileges to persons who violate the excise laws. They seek to have arrests made only upon warrants issued by Police Justices, in which event disreputable dealers with political influence will be safer from molestation than at present, and will not run the risk of being locked up for a few hours when found breaking the law at night. Besides, a patrolman is not anxious to provide extra work for himself in serving warrants when off duty. It is safe to say that no dealer anxious to obey the law asks for any such change. The effect of it would be to increase the violations of the law, for the reason that dealers do not fear arrest in the daytime. It is always easy for them at such times to get Aldermen and other politicians to go bail for them, and that, under the existing administration of the laws, is the end of such cases.

During the last eight years the Police Justices of this city have sent to the General Sessions for trial over 13,000 excise cases. Very few of these complaints have ever been tried, and unless a *nolle prosequi* has been entered in most of them by the present District-Attorney, there must be over 10,000 of such cases still in his pigeon-holes. A strange provision in the excise laws requires the magistrate to take the defendant's recognizance to the General Sessions, with a surety in the penalty of $100. The defendant regards the matter as finally disposed of, returns to his unauthorized traffic, and, if arrested again, goes through the same course of procedure. He can better afford to forfeit his bail, if it should happen not to be of the "straw" kind, in the event that his case should be called for trial, than to purchase a license. As there is no jury at Special Sessions these cases cannot be tried there unless the accused so elects, and he never does. In a report upon this subject the Board of Police Justices note it as a peculiar fact that while persons charged with violations of the excise laws elect to go to the General Sessions for trial, because "from many years' experience they suppose that they will never hear of their cases "again," yet "in nineteen-twentieths of other "misdemeanors the persons charged elect to be "tried by the Special Sessions instead of the "General Sessions."

The lax administration of the excise laws is a shame and disgrace to the city and a great wrong to honest dealers, and for this the District-Attorney's office is principally to blame, though the police are by no means guiltless. Mayor Grace endeavored to institute a reform in this matter, but he found himself powerless to accomplish anything. Reports made to him by the Police Board last year show that in eleven months 800 arrests were made for selling liquor without a license, with no convictions, and that at one time there were 126 grog-shops known to the police to be selling in entire disregard of the law. Reports from other sources showed that there were several hundred such places open in the city. About the same state of affairs exists to-day. Many of these places are concert saloons and like disreputable places that have been refused licenses, but are evidently in the enjoyment of police protection, as arrests have been made in only a few instances. Some of these arrests, however, have been of prominent lawbreakers, like McGlory and Geoghegan, whom District-Attorney McKeon has failed to prosecute in the same way that he has failed in the lottery cases, notwithstanding his loud promises of a reform in the administration of the criminal laws. A few well-chosen cases, promptly prosecuted, with an honest administration of the police force, would put an end to this disgrace under which the city now suffers, and would be an act of justice to the 9,083 dealers who pay for their licenses. The Board of Police Justices, in referring to this subject, say: "It is not true "that these laws cannot be enforced in this "city. The history of our courts shows that "whenever one of these cases is on trial con-"viction by the jury is as readily obtained with "competent testimony as in other cases of mis-"demeanors."

The excise laws were enforced at one time with beneficial results. Crime was diminished and the city revenue increased. In 1868 there was $991,000 paid into the city treasury from excise licenses. In 1875, when there had been a large increase in the population and in the cost of the police protection, prisons and asylums, the revenue from excise licenses had been reduced to $538,058. Three years later, under the same law, this revenue fell to $251,196. With a great increase in the number of grog-shops, the revenue from this source last year was, according to the Controller's books, $518,392, or $19,666 less than it was seven years ago under the same laws, and $473,000 less than it was fourteen years ago. These are facts which legislators will do well to bear in mind when told that the present excise laws are too stringent and need modification. The Board of Police Justices, which is certainly a competent body to speak upon the subject, has put on record the fact that the great majority of the 68,000 arrests brought before them in the course of a year are traceable to the use of intoxicating liquors, and the asylums are filled from the same cause. The taxpayers of this city are obliged to contribute this year nearly $3,000,000 for the maintenance of prisons and asylums, and $3,126,130 for police protection, exclusive of the cost of the criminal courts and of the large sum contributed to private charities. If only one-half of this expense can be laid at the door of the 10,000 liquor-shops, they cost in direct taxes about $4,000,000, and contribute only $518,392. Is it not about time, then, that some legislation was attempted for the benefit of the taxpayers instead of the two or three thousand liquor-dealers who want law-breaking made easier?

PROTECT THE SANE.

The commission which has prepared certain recommendations in regard to the laws relating to the insane appears to have felt the force of the popular idea that sane persons are frequently immured in asylums without warrant. Several of the suggestions therefore are of increased precautions against such possibilities, while abundant facilities are afforded for the escape of any one of sound mind who has been smuggled through the outposts of experts into an undeserved confinement.

There is an element of romance in the situation of an unwarranted consignment to a living tomb which has commended it to such novelists as Wilkie Collins and Charles Reade, and has deeply impressed a public always eager for sensations. One tale from real life of an innocent trusting wife torn from her friends by a faithless husband to weep behind the bars of an asylum will immediately convince the susceptible reader that every asylum in the country is filled with similar victims. Yet such crimes are happily of rare occurrence, and it is impossible—novelists and over-excitable readers to the contrary notwithstanding—that they could take place often. The prominence given isolated cases has produced a clamor likely to cause the impression that this is the chief defect in our legislation regarding the insane. But such is not the case. The recommendations of the commission as to more thorough examinations by experts for admission to asylums, and as to the liberty of inmates to communicate with their friends and to demand inspection by experts, are all excellent in their way and worthy of adoption, but in no way fundamental nor of primary importance. There are matters of more direct consequence which the commission appears to have ignored. Let any man of sound sense ask himself which is the greater evil: the possibility of a sane person's being semi-occasionally confined in an asylum or the fact that there are numbers of known lunatics outside of asylums who are allowed perfect liberty among us, although liable at almost any moment to break out in some dangerous act. It was not long ago that a Frenchman, long known to have been demented and yet never put under restraint, ran amuck down a crowded street stabbing right and left. Hardly a week passes that some "crank" does not wander into Police Headquarters or one of the station houses, or is not heard of in connection with threatening letters or a pistol or knife. There is neither rhyme nor reason in permitting these unfortunates to wander at large until in a moment of frenzy they perpetrate some crime. Then their insanity is acknowledged. But why is it necessary to wait for the crime to declare that they are irresponsible and therefore dangerous to the community?

This is one point that the gentlemen interesting themselves in this subject might consider—whether it is not worth while to protect the community by examining lunatics outside of as well as inside asylums, and by putting them out of the way of doing harm. Nor should it be forgotten that experts take a heavy responsibility upon themselves who allow patients of unsound mind who may become dangerous to remain at large on account of social or pecuniary considerations.

A PACIFIC GENIUS.

When Macaulay died it was generally felt that the English-reading world had lost its most fascinating essayist, its most subtle, learned, and eloquent literary critic. Since then—as they say, every week or two, in the prospectus for starting a new theatrical paper—"the want has long been felt" of such a reviewer; of a writer who should combine, as he did, the learning of Bentley with even more than the brilliancy of Sheridan. At last, however, that want has been supplied. Our new Macaulay bursts forth upon the Pacific slope, and the name of him is Warren Cheney.

The new Macaulay, to be sure, differs from the old one. He is great—but his greatness lies in a special direction. He has a field of his own. His illustrious prototype was creative, and had the faculty of writing out of his own head. Cheney's way is simpler and far more expeditious; he writes out of the heads of others. This is the age of the magnetic telegraph, and Cheney has no time to lose. The old way in literature, like the old way in everything else, must go to the wall. Lord Bacon worked very hard to write those essays of his. The original Macaulay,—who died at fifty-nine, exhausted with toil,—was surely a prodigious worker. How much easier and better,—if you want literary reputation, and the power of doing good in the world with your pen,—to tear out one of the old essays, put your name to the end of it, and publish it as your magazine article! The dead author won't miss it, and, ten to one, the living reader won't know it, even by sight. Cheney is not quite up to this yet. He still wastes a little time. But Cheney is young, and has room to grow.

At present the method of this new Macaulay is Paraphrase, and his genius shines forth in *The Overland Monthly*, of San Francisco. *The Overland Monthly* is a magazine started in that city in 1868, subsequently put to bed, and just now aroused, after a long sleep. The Editor says that he "has picked up the thread which had been dropped, and hopes to weave it into some cloth of gold"; and he has got Cheney to help him. Cheney's cloth is a thirteen-page article on Bret Harte; and, viewed as expert weaving, it certainly is a master-piece, and ought to fill the editorial breast with joy. Harte was the first Editor of *The Overland Monthly*. Hence Cheney's choice of him for a subject. But life is short,—particularly in the Southwest,—and it is one thing to choose your subject, and another thing to write about it. Here was Cheney's chance, and we are proud to say that he rose to the occasion. Another man might have tried to draw something out of his own brain. Foolish, old-fashioned writers still live, who think that this is a good thing to do. What Cheney did was to take two old essays written by Edmund C. Stedman, the one on Poe and the other on Lowell, and paraphrase both into an essay on Bret Harte. The result is in *The Overland Monthly*. Cheney no doubt has got his money for the job; and nobody has the headache—or will have, till Bret Harte reads the article. What the emotions of that gifted being may be when he ascertains that Poe, Lowell, and himself are one and the same person may, perhaps, best be left to conjecture. One thing is sure. He will reverence Cheney.

Mr. Stedman's essay on Poe appeared in *Scribner's Monthly*, for May, 1880; his essay on Lowell, in *The Century*, for May, 1882. Cheney goes a-Maying for them in *The Overland Monthly* for January, 1883, and some extracts are reprinted from his production on another page. It is a perfectly clear case, and it will make Cheney famous. He ought to be. Such men are rare, and they should not be allowed to work in obscurity. We have read Cheney's essay with great edification; and we can testify that it not only discloses a splendid method for making every man his own magazinist, but will adjust every literary student's impressions as to the spiritual qualities that underlie Lowell's wonderful poem of "The Raven," Bret Harte's magnificent Commemoration Ode, and Poe's droll verses on "The Heathen Chinee." The great career and complex mind of this poet, indeed, were never fully understood till now. Who could imagine, when Lowell was writing "The Fall of the House of Usher" for *Thompson's Overland Southern Monthly Literary Messenger*, that Bret Harte would live to contribute the "Biglow Papers" to *Burton's Magazine*, and Poe wind up his career as American Minister to the Court of St. James! "Fortune hath freaks, but none so strange as that."

MONEY AND BUSINESS

The business of the new year has not manifested as yet as much activity as was expected in legitimate trade, while the speculative activity has been great in some branches. Thus the reported sales of wheat at New-York already exceed 22,600,000 bushels this year, against about 18,000,000 to date last year; of corn 26,300,000 bushels, against 8,200,000 last year; of oats 7,100,000 bushels, against 1,800,000 last year, and of petroleum 60,000,000 barrels, against 21,700,000 last year. The dealings in cotton, on the other hand, have been smaller—810,000 bales, against 1,539,000 last year. In the petroleum figures reported, sales at Bradford and Oil City are included for both years. It will be seen that the speculative operations have on the whole been much larger this year thus far than they were last year to a corresponding date. Yet the exchanges which represent payments arising from business of all kinds, both speculative and legitimate, have been much smaller than they were for the first two weeks of 1882—only $1,480,000,000, against $1,973,000,000 last year. This loss is partly due to comparative stagnation in the Stock Exchange, where the sales of stocks have been smaller by nearly a million shares than they were last year. Nevertheless, after deducting double the market value of stocks, the remaining exchanges for the two weeks amount to only $1,100,000,000, against $1,325,000,000 last year, a decrease of 17 per cent. Such a decline in payments of all kinds other than on account of stock operations, in spite of a marked increase in speculation in products, clearly indicates a larger decline in the volume of legitimate trade.

This is to a considerable extent because the payments incident to the first of the new year were evidently much smaller this year than in 1882. Of this fact evidence is seen in the transactions at other cities, which were smaller at Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati and St. Louis, and scarcely larger at Philadelphia, during the first week of 1883 than during the first week of 1882. While this state of things appeared at all the chief centres of wholesale trade, the exchanges at many of the minor cities and manufacturing towns were larger than those of a year ago. Apparently payments on account of the business of last fall were much smaller than such payments were early in 1882 on account of business in the fall of 1881. But the new business also seems as yet to be smaller in volume, outside of speculative dealings, than it was a year ago. It is not by any means a necessary inference that the present dulness is to continue. The extremely mild and open winter until quite recently, has tended to retard dealings.

Disbursements by the Treasury were not closely watched last week, because there was no apprehension as to the immediate future of the money market. They sufficed, taking the average of six days ending with Friday, to add $1,529,162 in specie to the bank reserves, while the average withdrawal of currency from the bank was $251,887. As the banks report a gain in averages of $2,325,000 specie and $2,168,000 legal tenders it must be inferred that their receipts from the interior added about $3,200,000 to their reserves. The surplus is now $7,870,700, loans having been but slightly expanded during the past week. There is reason to suppose that a large proportion of the recent increase has been in aid of speculations in stocks and products. One or two banks are said to be getting very high rates of interest on loans made with petroleum certificates as collateral; others have increased their loans on grain and cotton. In view of the fact that excessive speculation is now the chief danger to the public prosperity, expansion in that direction cannot be considered conducive to the general welfare. Whether loans upon securities held for speculation have recently been increased does not clearly appear, for although many institutions have made new loans of that character, very many time loans that matured about the beginning of the new year have been paid and by the former borrowers not renewed. There is much evidence that the amount of money borrowed on time by stock dealers is very much smaller than it was a year ago. This indicates either that securities have lodged more largely in the hands of those who have large resources, or that the amount of them held in this market has diminished within a year. The latter explanation, it is generally believed, cannot be correct.

The course of exchange, which is thought quite mysterious by many, tends to support the opinion that securities in considerable amount have been sold in this market for foreign holders, and such information as can be obtained points in that direction. At the same time it is fair to remember that purchases are often made on foreign account without immediate shipment of securities or disclosure of the facts. Notwithstanding the large excess of exports over imports in December and November, the full returns for the year 1882 will probably show a very small excess if any, leaving net exports of specie amounting to about $35,000,000 as the only settlement yet made for difference on freight and insurance accounts, profits of importers and undervaluation of imports, unless payment has been made in securities. If the imports have exceeded the exports of securities during the past year, as is generally supposed, there must still be some unliquidated balance due from this to other countries.

Ghosts are at a discount. Once they met a certain welcome, now they meet a shotgun. We are told that 500 people awaited the Paterson ghost the other night, armed with revolvers, guns, pistols and knives. Of course his ghostship didn't come. He was no such fool. There was no occasion for his setting himself up for a target. He undoubtedly scraped the mud of New-Jersey from his feet and betook himself elsewhere. But why do ghosts select New-Jersey and Harlem for their appearances? Why not take a more cheerful place? Now a ghost in Madison Square on a Saturday afternoon would undoubtedly score a hit, although it might be hard to distinguish him from some of the statues. This revolver and shotgun reception is partly the fault of the ghosts themselves, who should cast their lines in more hospitable places.

PERSONAL.

The Rev. Dr. A. F. Baird, of Syracuse, N. Y., is to succeed the Rev. Dr. Hitchcock in the American church in Paris.

Sarah Bernhardt-Damala has closely trimmed off the big frizzes of hair that used to overshadow her brow, to the great improvement, it is said, of her appearance.

The late Henry James left a considerable fortune, to be divided equally among his daughter and three of his sons. His fourth son, a prosperous business man of Milwaukee, was omitted, at his own request, from the list of residuary legatees.

The English Reform Club has decided to tender Mr. Gladstone a banquet in the club-house, London early next month, but fear is now expressed that the state of his health will not allow him to accept the invitation.

Since the sickness and death of M. Gambetta public sentiment in Paris has suppressed the operatic antics of the Mlle. Claire Gambetta whose sole claim upon public patronage seemed to be her alleged relationship to the Republican leader—a relationship the genuineness of which is indubitably attested by the fact that she now bobs up serenely as "Mlle. Alice Grévy, cousin to the President of the Republic."

Topics of the holiday season among the American colony in Paris were, the brilliant performance (in private theatricals) of "Fron-Fron," with Miss Hooper, daughter of Vice-Consul Hooper, in the leading rôle; the departure of Mrs. Mackay, under medical advice, for Mentone for the winter; and un *bal blanc* given by Mr. W. Seligman in honor of the arrival of his niece in the French capital.

The late Lot M. Morrill and Timothy Howe, now Postmaster-General, were admitted to the bar together, and began the practice of law in the same town, Readfield, Maine. Morrill was then a Democrat and Howe a Whig, and there was much friendly political rivalry between them. After a few years they left Readfield together, Morrill to win honors in the capital of his native State, and Howe to go West and grow up with the country."

Mrs. Langtry spent much time in Chicago at roller-skating, a pastime of which she is very fond.

The late Clark Mills left a widow, two sons who are sculptors of no mean ability, and a daughter, Miss Eva Mills, the well-known singer. It is related that when his sons went abroad to study art he furnished them with so small an allowance of money that one of his intimate friends remarked upon it. "Well," said the sculptor, "I wish to teach my boys self-reliance. Living is inexpensive at Munich. Their art education will cost nothing, and they ought soon to be able to earn something in that city. I want them to start in life while I live. Then, if they stumble and call for help, I can go to their rescue. If I keep them tied to me, dependent, till I die, then if they fall in the untried paths of enterprise, they will have no sure friend to help them to their feet again."

GENERAL NOTES.

There is a town in Iowa which has a population of 1,300, and twelve distinct and separate church organizations which a local paper says are not busy converting outsiders but in trying to kill off each other. Life is made miserable to the unfortunate stranger who comes to that town. He is pounced upon by the emissaries of these organizations, and if he should be weak enough to yield to the blandishments of one, he is promptly ostracized by all the others. The aforesaid local paper seriously states that the business of the town is very much injured by this state of affairs. It would seem that if there was more religion and a little less church, it would be better all around.

The town of Longview, Tex., has developed a novel method of making New Year's visits. The prominent gentlemen of the town made their calls on that day in the following ludicrous style: They provided themselves with pieces of brown cardboard about a foot square on which their names were rudely printed in large type. They presented these visiting cards at the doors on a huge dustpan. Each gentleman rode the most ungainly mule that could be found, and was accompanied by a servant mounted on a splendid horse, gayly caparisoned. The servants carried the mammoth visiting cards in a basket. Such is the wild and untrammelled freedom of life in the Lone Star State.

An interesting annual statement of business is issued to-day by the Equitable Life Assurance Company of this city, from which it appears that the company had at the beginning of this year the enormous surplus over liabilities of $10,500,000, and gross assets of more than $48,000,000. A comparison of the amounts of new business done during each of the past five years shows a steady increase from a little more than twenty-one millions in 1878 to sixty-two and a quarter millions in 1882—the largest annual business, it is said, ever done by a single life-insurance company. The company believes that its remarkable prosperity is due to its strength, as shown by its large surplus; the large dividends earned for policy-holders; its simple form of contract, incontestable after three years; immediate payment of valid claims; the entire absence of contested claims from its books; and the general advantages of the tontine system.

Chicago has just scored a point in the everlasting dispute between it and St. Louis as to their relative greatness. A gentleman has been visiting St. Louis lately in search of information in regard to the early settlement of Illinois, the history of which he is engaged in writing. And he has published in all the St. Louis papers that that city, of all the towns of any size he ever visited, is the most barren of facilities for acquiring information of the past. He was referred to the St. Louis Historical Society for certain documents, and to his astonishment he found that august body stowed away in a storage room in a cellar, and its presumable treasures were hidden from view in boxes and parcels. The most galling thing about this statement is that it is a Chicago man who makes it, and that he immediately adds that Chicago is raising a large sum of money to erect a suitable building for its Historical Society. The venerable taunt about large feet is nothing to this.

Recently there has been a great deal of excitement in Montreal over the report that a band of resurrectionists were at work rifling the graves in some of the cemeteries. The other night an alert and intelligent policeman of that city saw a mysterious-looking sleigh, with a heavy black cloth thrown over its contents, driving rapidly from a well-known cemetery, and followed it. When he saw it enter the grounds of a large medical college he was sure that he had unearthed a vile crime against the dead. He waited until the driver had hitched his horses, when he suddenly appeared and in a gruff voice demanded what was in the sleigh. The driver said it was none of his business, at which the policeman thrust his hand under the covering, and was horrified at coming in contact with a cold clammy hand. With eager haste he tore the covering off the sleigh, expecting to see a sickening cargo of "stiffs." In this he was disappointed, however; for the sleigh was filled with a dozen medical students who had been off on a "lark" and had taken this method of hoaxing the authorities. The policeman tried hard to look dignified under his discomfiture, but with rather poor success.

POLITICAL NEWS.

Governor Butler's order to his executive clerk to have *The Boston Post* discontinued is supposed by some to be the first step in his campaign of reform and economy. A more plausible explanation, however, can be found in the evident antagonism of that paper to allowing the Governor to use the Democratic party any longer to further his Presidential aspirations or to punish his enemies in the Republican party.

There is now and then a mild effort made to push Congressman Hammond, of Georgia, for the Speakership, but nothing in the nature of a boom in his favor has developed as yet. The advocates of Free Trade see that with so many candidates in the field against Mr. Randall he is likely to win the fight, and hence the evident desire to concentrate. But the prospects of Mr. Hammond's being taken up as a compromise candidate are not very flattering. Besides, he has injured his chances by expressing a doubt whether his party can elect a President next year, and that is an unpardonable offence in the eyes of a Democrat.

If the Democrats could cast some of the odium of the Tennessee repudiation and defalcation upon the Republicans it would be a source of great relief to them. But the debt was created before the war, when the State was under the undisputed control of the Democracy, and the man who has robbed the Treasury belongs to the same party. So every time an attempt is made to shift the burden the party only shows plainly that it is on the right shoulders now. To make matters worse, it is well known that the Republicans have stood solidly for the public credit. The frantic effort made to smirch them with the stain of repudiation will, therefore, prove futile.

Governor Rollins, of Maine, has redeemed the promise he made during the canvass and reappointed ex-Judge Libby to his old seat on the Bench of that State. The Judge is a Democrat, but he refused to assist the Garcelon gang in its endeavor to steal the State in 1879, and accordingly Governor Plaisted refused to renominate him to the Judgeship when his term expired. This attempt to degrade and punish an upright Judge for doing his duty was resented by the people of Maine, and they demanded his reinstatement. Governor Rollins has promptly responded by making it the first act of his administration.

Booming Presidential candidates is a far less fertile source of amusement in the South than in the North, probably because that section has no man whom it expects to see nominated. It will have a potent voice, however, in the selection of the next Democratic nominee, and the candidate it favors will doubtless head the ticket. Intimations, therefore, from the South of preferences for certain men have more significance than those given in the North. Judge Field is about the only candidate who has a distinct boom in the Southern States. *The Macon Telegraph* pays him a handsome compliment, and says that he is the man for a Democratic Presidential candidate exactly. Ex-Senator McDonald and the tidal wave Governors will have to keep an eye on Judge Field.

The amendment or repudiating Democrats gained a victory in the organization of the lower House of the Arkansas Legislature, and the prediction is freely made that the proposition to repudiate a large part of the State debt will be submitted again to the people. The Governor, however, in his message is evidently in favor of the Legislature taking some action to free the State from the stain of repudiation. The State, he says, is not responsible for the amount of the bonds, but he believes it to be under moral obligations to see that the holders are reimbursed. He suggests that a law be passed taxing the railroads, in whose favor the bonds