

BROADWAY NOTE—BOOK.

MEN AND THINGS, THE COUNTRY ROUND.

THE PERSONAL NOTES AND NOTIONS OF A BROADWAY MAN.

One of our oldest and best officers... Dr. Wales, who was a physician of ex-Secretary Thompson of the Navy...

Said I: "What do you naval men think of Secretary Chandler?" "Those who have come in contact with him," said my informant...

I met a friend recently from Mexico, who said that Romero was the ablest man in Mexico and was not in very good health...

At the close of his industrious look on the working of our Government, Mr. Benton remarked on National Conventions: "An irresponsible body, chiefly self-constituted and mainly dominated by professional office-seekers and office-holders..."

Robert Lincoln, the Secretary of War, came more nearly out of the clouds of Washington than any other of public men. He was born nearly forty years ago in Springfield, Illinois...

On the head of Mexico I may remark that I recently met a gentleman formerly in the army, who said to me: "Those Mexicans who have a dislike of us, coming from nothing but their self-mutilation..."

Thousands of old readers of THE TRIBUNE remember John M. Clayton, of Delaware, whom Galusha Groves once told me he regarded as the very perfect Senator...

A French gentleman recently told me that he thought there were 30,000 French in New-York. Many of the French do not like this climate, but they do like the freedom of the society...

The tendency in almost everything here is toward snuff and chaos toward a re-organization. This is the case with the press; its conditions had become uneasy through competition, expense and invasion...

The question is sometimes asked whether mercantile agencies such as Bradstreet's and Dun & Barlow's are thorough and conservative institutions...

I see that Mr. Bergh has performed the feat of stopping the United States some of the goods of George O'Connell. The goods went last week back during the rain. The dresses, the ribbons, even the cartmen when they are blocked and the porting militia, open to let the mail wagons pass...

The people of Orange do not constitute such an old and comprehensive community that it need be a reflection upon them that some few persons took Mr. Benton's opinion as a "crack" and did not respect his modesty and the discipline of exposure and denunciation...

composition produced now and then, not on the score of its mere popularity, but of its excellence. Construction companies to build new railroads have never been so numerous as at present...

The Presidential nomination in both parties, through the self-seeking struggles of many years past, has come to be a very game and those who think they have a chance for it fight hard with their friends to prevent the mention of their names until, like the tournament in Ithaca, an unknown knight may suddenly appear and carry his enemies down...

In new railroads, where there is no public subsidy, one would have supposed, if he had thought about it some years ago, that the directors would have found a superintendent who would have put out the contracts along the whole line without the intermediate agency of a second corporation...

It is astonishing how long it takes for a fact in morals to be a part of the public apprehension. The British aristocracy has been in existence for seven hundred years, and yet every now and then an adventurer can find his way through England as well as America claiming to be a lord of some title which does not exist at all...

Mr. George Pendleton's brother, Elliott Pendleton, was at the Fifth Avenue Hotel during the week, a gentleman resembling his brother, but not so stout and probably taller. The brother is a man of letters and is often referred to as Bob.

Scapulo as the utility of broad education for women are not uncommon. Said a crusty old fellow on Broadway to me: "I witnessed the acting of a play in the city of Paris, called, 'The Female Kingdom'..."

Read I to the old Crocker and I don't see that you are making much headway against women by citing a play that came up on the stage. Probably you are, but I don't see it. From our first mother Eve, who combined with the catin to reform Paradise, down to the times of Catherine de Russia and Isabella of Spain, the political supremacy of women has been at the cost of her lover's career...

For a new country like ours, it is amazing how innovation has been discouraged, though there has seldom been any real innovation which has not been triumphant. At a time when nearly all the actors in the country were worshippers of slavery, the play of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was a real innovation...

Charles Sumner, thirty years before he was known in politics, was a successful journalist in New-York. He was invited to take breakfast with me one day, and he liked a good breakfast when he did not get up. At the hour named by Mr. Greely, he left the Astor House, took a stage and rode several miles up Broadway to the old-fashioned farm-house, situated in the middle of an orchard on Broadway and the river...

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TOPICS IN LEADING CITIES.

SAN FRANCISCO.

THE HANGING OF A STRANGLER—END OF THE DROUTH—RAILROAD TAXES.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 26.—The sensation of the week has been the hanging of Wheeler, who strangled his sister-in-law near four years ago. Through a police-court shyder, the murderer secured repeated appeals to the Supreme Court, so that he was twice convicted and three times sentenced before he was finally brought to the gallows. He adopted the insanity plea, which the jury would not accept. The falsity of the plea was shown by his confession to counsel before death, and by a post-mortem examination which proved that his brain was unusually healthy. His prison life and death were attended by revolting features. Several women visited him frequently, and one desired to marry him on the night before he was hanged. A morbidly curious crowd blocked the street in front of the jail and swarmed around the murderer's dead body as it lay in the morgue. This was the first hanging in the city for nearly six years, and the deed of it was demonstrated by the fact that in this time one hundred and fifty-five homicides have been committed, and over thirty convicted murderers are in the county jail.

A spectacle scarcely less repulsive than the morbid curiosity concerning the dead murderer was furnished on Friday, when Sullivan and his gang of "sluggers" arrived here. All the "hoodlums" and "plug-uigs" in the city turned out, and the ferry landing overflowed with a crowd of the class which once formed the rank and file of Kearney's and Lot's mob.

Slight showers on Friday broke the long drought, but it will take heavy rains to repair the damage already done. Reports from the interior show that summer-fallow land is doing well, but crops on other land are suffering for lack of rain.

A long wrangle over a State tax of the Central Pacific Railroad ended this week, by the agreement of the company to settle for 1881 and 1882 on the Board of Equalization's estimate. Deducting the sums already paid to several counties, which have made compromises, leaves nearly \$1,000,000 which will be paid into the State Treasury, a sum that will relieve stringency in several important funds.

The Lick trustees have shown more activity recently than in all the previous years of their service. They have paid nearly all the bequests and have leased the Lick House for \$2,000 a month for two years. This latter was done without the offering of any proposals, although it was known that several hotel men would have paid \$2,500 a month for it. The hotel is a richly furnished and valuable property.

There is a prospect of free baths being built next summer, as Ira P. Rankin, of the trustees charged with this duty, is in New-York, inspecting the free bath system there, in order to get suggestions.

The chief creditors of Waterman & Co., the insolvent wheat shipping firm, have agreed to settle for fifty cents on a dollar, as this seems to be all the firm can pay. The creditors, however, have not yet agreed to the compromise.

An effort is being made here to work up mining "booms" in three widely separated places: first, in the north, at the Clear d'Alene camp in Idaho; second, in California, in the Bodie district in the higher Sierras, east of Yosemite, and remote from all other lines of travel, where the climate is more arid than that of Virginia City; and third, in the Quijotas Mountains, near Tombstone, Arizona, where a bonanza firm has bought several mines which show rich prospects. A prospector who catches every mining fever will thus have a liberal choice in the spring. Life is hard, however, in all these places. In the Idaho camp flour is sixty dollars a barrel; while at Bodie it costs a snail's fortune to keep the miners supplied with whiskey and other necessities. In the Arizona diggings, wood and water are so scarce and costly that only wealthy corporations can afford to open up the mines.

Journalists instinct refuse to be suppressed here, despite repeated assaults. Three clever newspaper men now propose to issue in March a weekly political and literary journal, the main object of which will be to expose humbug. This is a fertile field, and the so-called Anti-Monopoly Democratic party of the State will furnish abundant material. Previous efforts of this kind have died a natural death, or sunk to the level of black-mailing sheets.

A number of Eastern capitalists are here inspecting the cable road system preparatory to its introduction in New-York and Philadelphia. There is a prospect of a legal warfare between Hallidie, owner of the original patents for the cable and grip, and the Market Street Railroad Company, which, it is alleged, has infringed his patents.

The brothers LeConte, who have been identified with the University of California since its foundation, recently received a call from the University of Tennessee. Members of the alumni here are trying to retain them, and have founded a scholarship in their name; but they have been the objects of so much petty jealousy it is doubtful if they remain. The university is now controlled by a small-souled clique of regents in the interest of mediocrity.

CHICAGO.

MUSIC AND DRAMA—NEW OPERA HOUSE—THE EXPOSITION BUILDING—EDUCATIONAL.

CHICAGO, Jan. 26.—The opera has largely engrossed the attention of the city during the week, both that company which is here and that which is coming. The first week of the Abbey season is at an end. The attendance has been unprecedentedly large. The scale of fees for next week is a very generous one, and yet seats for the first nights of the Mapleson season are already finding purchasers at from \$15 to \$20 premium. The musical results this week, however, have not corresponded with the financial. "Faust" on Monday night was a shabby performance and a disappointment also, as "Cyprien" was substituted for Campanini. "Lohengrin" on Wednesday night was a fiasco, and Campanini was in such bad form that the curtain was rung down before the opera was finished, while Mrs. Nilsson principally distinguished her self by breaking down a lounge in the nuptial chamber. "Don Giovanni" on Thursday night was a very mediocre performance. Mme. Sembrich saved the week and made a great success in "Lucia" and "The Barber of Seville." Her reception has been more cordial than that of any other artist for many years. "Hamlet" has been taken off from next week's repertory, and "The Prophet" substituted, but as the performance of the latter will be mainly in the nature of a rehearsal for Cincinnati, not much is expected from it.

The most important operative announcement of the week is that of the incorporation of a stock company with several prominent real estate men and capitalists in the organization, for the erection of an opera house such as Chicago has long needed. The site selected is on the corner of Clark and Washington streets, now occupied by the Exchange Building. The new building will be nine stories in height, fire proof, and will be known as the Opera House Block. The seating capacity will be 2,000. The remaining space on the ground floor will be divided into stores, and that above devoted to offices. The building will cost between \$500,000 and \$600,000, but the situation and the elegance of the structure will insure an income that will pay a handsome percentage. It will have three fronts, the third being on Calhoun place, which will give the architects ample scope for the display of their ability. The projectors of the enterprise are Messrs. Edward

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There continue great audiences at the opera and theatres. A "professional" told me this week that more money was being made by dramatic and musical performances in Philadelphia than in any other city in the country.

The steamers which were withdrawn from the American Line have been put on again. It was intended that the cars on the Market, Walnut, Chestnut, Filbert, Sanson, Nineteenth and Trumbull streets, shall all be run by the same motor. The laying of the cable will be begun in the early spring.

Two notable city characters died this week. "Crazy Jane," Jane Newman, was called by all the people about Philadelphia, and yet seats for the first nights of the Mapleson season are already finding purchasers at from \$15 to \$20 premium. The musical results this week, however, have not corresponded with the financial. "Faust" on Monday night was a shabby performance and a disappointment also, as "Cyprien" was substituted for Campanini. "Lohengrin" on Wednesday night was a fiasco, and Campanini was in such bad form that the curtain was rung down before the opera was finished, while Mrs. Nilsson principally distinguished her self by breaking down a lounge in the nuptial chamber. "Don Giovanni" on Thursday night was a very mediocre performance. Mme. Sembrich saved the week and made a great success in "Lucia" and "The Barber of Seville." Her reception has been more cordial than that of any other artist for many years. "Hamlet" has been taken off from next week's repertory, and "The Prophet" substituted, but as the performance of the latter will be mainly in the nature of a rehearsal for Cincinnati, not much is expected from it.

The veteran actor, James E. Murdoch, who is giving a series of recitals at the Grand Opera House, is unusually sprightly for a man of his years and retains much of his old-time vigor. Only a few days ago he was engaged at the Chestnut Street Theatre in a round of the old comedies, delighting his audience and the critics. It was published in Philadelphia in 1857, and is a frequent visitor to Philadelphia. He teaches elocution and is every summer at Atlantic City.

ART NEWS AND COMMENTS.

THE WEEK IN ART CIRCLES.

PROSPECTS OF THE WATER-COLOR EXHIBITION.—NEW WORKS AT THE DEALERS'—NOTES OUT OF TOWN.

The Hanging Committee of the Water Color Society has completed its work this year with unusual energy and promptitude. The north, south and east galleries at the Academy were hung by Thursday, and the close of yesterday found the corridor as well very nearly as it will appear at the coming exhibition. The north gallery at least is already given over to the publishers of the catalogue. Mr. Corcoran, Mr. Murphy and Freer are certainly entitled to much credit for the early accomplishment of a very arduous duty. Delay in the hanging of an exhibition is apt to bring other unfortunate results as well as belated catalogues. Whether the Hanging Committee is to be congratulated for anything besides the rapidity of its work cannot, of course, be determined until Friday next. But the many pleasant reports are calculated to arouse favorable anticipations.

For example, Mr. Winslow Homer, whose last year's water colors opened the flood-gates of speech and of ink, will be represented by two works. One depicts the wreck of a vessel, the other the launching of a boat with groups of figures upon the shore. The largest picture in the exhibition will be an elaborate work by Mr. J. Alden Weir, a Brittany peasant woman on her way to church. Mr. Samuel Colman, who last year sent nothing, will be represented in this exhibition by several drawings. Mr. F. S. Church has contributed a work called "Fradona," and Mr. C. D. Willson, whose "The Boatman" shows a distinctly humorous conception, has sent some old genre, somewhat in the same line. Mr. C. Y. Turner has come forward with a large study of a woman tending flowers in a garden. Mr. Kappes sends some figures of a woman, and Mr. Snyder essays to fill Mr. Smedley's place with a similar class of subjects. Neither Mr. E. A. Abbey nor Mr. Alfred Parsons nor Mr. Smedley will be represented in this exhibition. Nevertheless the half dozen instances which have been cited show that the collection will be far from weak in positive attractions.

Mr. Steifel's study of a head, and Mr. Beckwith's study of a young woman, are among the studies at the American Art Gallery. This exhibition will be open to-day from 2 until 6 p. m.

A new painting by Emile Renouf has been lately placed on view at Reibohr's art rooms, a composition of positive character. If not altogether pleasing in quality and the action of the central figure. This is a portrait which takes a dead leaves and weeds upon a blazing pile. Behind it, Mr. Renouf has placed a second study of a woman, a characteristically artistic. A local painter, Mr. Bangs, has contributed to this gallery a landscape in water-colors, noteworthy for the evenness of its coloring and the mellow quality of its tones.

At Knodler's a large flower and still life study by Bobbe has been lately added to the gallery. The painting of the roses offers an interesting point of comparison with the methods of such a painter, for example, as Mr. Weir. In Bobbe's picture, the artist has clearly outlined and defined the petals, and has given them a soft and delicate touch of the skill with which he has not only rendered each part of the flower but combined these parts, properly subordinated in a whole. Mr. Weir, on the other hand, loads his canvas with paint and executes his flowers in masses, preserving nevertheless the significant characteristics. If the works of the two artists could be placed side by side it would be necessary to confess that Mr. Weir's is the more artistic. Still Mr. Bobbe's impression of the fresh beauty of his roses. It is not necessary to visit galleries of foreign pictures in order to get a study of the flower. The artist in this direction is becoming more and more noticeable at our yearly exhibitions.

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