Amusements Co-Night.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE—Skating Rink.
BIJOU OPERA HOUSE—8—"Orpheus and Eurydice."
CASINO—8—"The Beggar Student."
DALY'S THEATRE—8—"Seven-Twenty-Eight."
GRAND OPERA HOUSE—8—"Edgewood Folks."
MADISON SQUARE THEATRE—8—"Alpine Roses."
NEW PARK THEATRE—8—"That Man."
NEW-YORK COMEDY THEATRE—8—"Fun on the Bristol."
NIBLO'S GARDEN—8—"Richard III."
STAR THEATRE—8—"Wanted a Partner."
STEINWAY HALL—11 Lecture—3—Recital—8—Concert.
THALIA THEATRE—8—"Die Kindsfrau."
THEATRE COMIQUE—8—"Cordelia's Aspirations."
UNION SQUARE THEATRE—8—"Separation."
WALLACK'S THEATRE—8—"Deception."
3D AVENUE THEATRE—8—"One of the Finest."
6TH AVENUE THEATRE—8—"Confusion."
14TH STREET THEATRE—8—"Unser Fritz."

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NEW-YORK, THURSDAY, JAN. 31.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—The steamer Rhywabons struck on rocks near Cardiff on Tuesday night and eleven men were probably lost. ═══ In a speech before the Society of Arts in London the Marquis of Lorne spoke about emigration to Canada. ═══ General Wallace has demanded from the Porte indemnity for Americans. ═══ Mr. Bradlaugh announces that he will make an effort to take the oath on the opening of Parliament. ═══ The agrarian agitation in Pskow and Vitebsk, Russia, continues. ═══ Negotiations between France and the Vatican are pending.

CONGRESS.—In the Senate yesterday Mr. Blair presented numerously signed petitions against the manufacture and sale of alcoholic liquors in the District of Columbia and the Territories, and spoke strongly in their support. ═══ The Senate debated without action the conference report on the Greely Relief bill. ═══ In the House petitions were presented against legislation adverse to the Marine Hospital Service. ═══ A bill was reported to establish a Bureau of Animal Industry. ═══ Funeral services of the late Representative Mackey were held in the Chamber of the House.

DOMESTIC.—Grand Army encampments are being held at Bennington and Rochester. ═══ A Maryland father locked his nineteen-year-old son up for marrying. ═══ Fire destroyed the Phœnix Glass works at Phillipsburg, Penn. ═══ Railroad accidents are reported from Granby, Conn., and Livonia, N. Y. ═══ The inquiry into the Gay Head disaster has been postponed a week on account of Captain Wright's illness. ═══ A bill to protect Long Island Sound oysters from starfish has been introduced into the Connecticut Legislature. ═══ The glass workers' strike at Pittsburg, after seven months' duration, is ended. ═══ Blaine develops great popularity as a Presidential candidate in Huntington County, Penn.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.—Mr. Bangs began his summing up for Mr. Fenardent yesterday. ═══ The defence in the Hart-Townsend libel case was opened. ═══ The funeral of John B. Ward was held. ═══ "Billy" McGlory was convicted of selling liquor without a license. ═══ Business was impeded by the fog, and several collisions occured. ═══ Monsignor Capel lectured on "Early Christians in the Catacombs." ═══ Gold value of the legal-tender silver dollar (412½ grains), 85.73 cents. ═══ Stocks opened buoyant and advanced; later they were feverish and fluctuating, and they closed unsettled at generally the lowest figures of the day.

THE WEATHER—TRIBUNE local observations indicate warmer, partly cloudy weather and rain. Temperature yesterday: Highest, 36°; lowest, 21°; average, 29°.

It is a good sign when an old and notorious offender, such as "Billy" McGlory, is convicted for violating the Excise law. If the District-Attorney will bring a few more such prominent offenders to trial, and convict them, he will do the public and the cause of good government a great service.

The Democrats in the New-Jersey Legislature have followed their brethren in Ohio in attempting to straddle the tariff question. They have declared themselves in favor of "a tariff for revenue limited to the necessary expenditure of the Government." Practically, these Democrats favor free trade, but they are afraid so to declare themselves.

The report of the Canadian Minister of Public Works shows that the Government management of telegraphs in that country has led to an unfortunate result. The loss last year was over 50 per cent. There is no reason to believe that any better result would follow such a system of control in this country. In fact, we have not heretofore been able to show, in the Government management of public works, economical results equal to those of the Dominion.

If Commissioner Thompson's estimate of the cost of the Quaker Bridge Dam is made up in the same way as his estimates for some other public works in which he is interested, the cost will reach an enormous sum. He now places it at $2,870,000. But this is based on an estimated quantity of 175,000 cubic yards of earth excavation and 15,400 of rock excavation. If John Brady should get the contract at a rate of $30 a cubic yard for rock and one quarter of a cent for earth excavation, and the figures in Mr. Thompson's estimate of quantities should be reversed, as has frequently been the case, the taxpayers might shudder to think where they would come out. If the Dam is built it will be apt to cost, like the Bronx River conduit, several times the original estimate. The Dam is not needed, and ought not to be built.

The advice of Secretary Frelinghuysen, that Congress take no legislative action on the question affecting American meat products abroad until further information has been obtained on the subject, is safe and proper, though perhaps unnecessary. The report of the commission which has been considering this subject is soon to be presented to Congress, when it will be in a better position to deal with this matter. If, in the face of clear proof that our meat products are not deleterious but promotive of health, foreign governments should refuse to annul their decrees against the importation of such products, then Congress would be justified in taking action on the subject. But there ought to be no hasty legislation on such an important question.

The Assembly wasted a good deal of time yesterday in the discussion of a bill regulating the hours of labor for street-car drivers and conductors. The bill makes it unlawful for street railway companies to exact more than twelve hours of labor daily from such employes. No person will dispute the justice of such a measure. But if it becomes a law it will be a dead letter. Nearly all street railroad companies pay their drivers and conductors so much for each round trip. And such legislation as that proposed by the advocates of this measure will in no wise affect the present condition of things. The Legislature has no right to prevent a driver or conductor from working as many hours as he may choose, nor has it any right to abridge his earnings. We should be glad to see the condition of such workmen improved, but special legislation of this kind is a mere waste of time.

THE LATEST TARIFF SCHEME.

Mr. Morrison modifies his plan again. So, at least, his friends report. Having seen that a "horizontal" reduction will not serve as an evasion, he is said to be compounding a mixture of various horizontal reductions. In each class or branch, he says, the reduction proposed is to be horizontal; that is for the purpose of escaping definite responsibility for any particular change in each class that may prove idiotic or ruinous. But the reduction is to be greater on some classes or branches than on others, and on some very great, because there is need of great reduction. This is for the purpose of placating the red-hot free-traders, who have been giving angry utterance to a feeling that Mr. Morrison's native hue of reforming resolution may be sicklied o'er with the pale cast of Presidential thought.

It is necessary to state that this extraordinary scheme, incredible as it may seem, is not an invention of Mr. Morrison's enemies, but is either his own, or is attributed to him by near and admiring friends. It has been noticed that Mr. Hewitt has strongly objected to "horizontal" reductions, as confessions of incompetence, and as continuing discriminations which Democrats have denounced as "robbery." Mr. Hewitt wants raw materials free, albeit neither Mr. Hewitt nor anybody else can tell what he means by "raw materials." But the scheme which he has in mind, one would infer, involves a scale of duties graduated according to the proportion of labor that enters into the cost of a given product. To frame such a bill requires some knowledge. How could such a measure be framed by a Democratic House or passed through one? Mr. Hewitt is an able man, but he has not yet been able to frame a bill on these lines that will pass a house composed exclusively of himself.

Mr. Morrison evidently recognizes the impossibility of getting rational discriminations out of a Democratic majority. To escape this labor of Sisyphus, he is contriving to make Republican discriminations the groundwork of his tariff. Perhaps he imagined that, careful gradations of duty having been devised to meet public needs, he could cut off half all around and secure half the benefit. He might as well go through his garden in early summer and carefully cut off half the growth of every plant and vegetable, and then expect half a crop. But now he proposes to classify. He will clip off the blossoms only of the potatoes, and half the stalk of the corn; only the tip end of the asparagus and the upper quarter of the lettuce, and all there is above ground of the tomato. Is it any wonder that factories begin to close when a Democratic statesman commences "reforming" things?

It is not yet stated what Mr. Morrison's lines of classification are to be; whether he is to apply one rule of reduction to all products of iron and another to all products of cotton, or whether he will try to distinguish products of one industrial process or treatment from products of a second or a third process. We can possess our souls in patience, because he is likely to end, in either case, about where he did when he was Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee years ago. He will find that his Democratic friends will defeat his bill if he gives them no chance to amend it, and will tear it to pieces if he does. As he abandoned the Wells-Moore tariff in disgust years ago, so he will probably leave his latest economic offspring on some cold doorstep before the session ends.

GENERAL GORDON'S NILE JOURNEY.

General Gordon's Nile journey to Khartoum will occupy about a fortnight, if the itinerary given in the cable dispatches be correct. From Assouan on the southern edge of Egypt proper he will ascend the Nile to Korosco, where he expects to arrive on Monday next. Thence he will take the desert route to Abu Hamet, avoiding Dongola, the birthplace of the False Prophet, and the district on the great western bend of the Nile where the population is reported to be laboring under religious excitement and where the Kababyeh Arabs are in open revolt. Allowing five days for this ride across the desert, he hopes to make a rapid journey up the Nile. Abu Hamet is 220 miles below Berber and 420 miles below Khartoum. In the Berber district he will be exposed to the greatest danger and the time of his arrival at his final destination is purely a matter of conjecture. General Stone, in the course of his interesting lecture in Chickering Hall, predicted that General Gordon would never reach Khartoum alive. With the country in revolt between Suakim and the Nile, and with the False Prophet's forces approaching Khartoum, the journey of this heroic soldier to the mouth of the Blue Nile, without an army, and attended only by a slender escort, seems a desperate undertaking. His progress will be watched by Englishmen with anxious solicitude, and if any harm befall him the Government of the day will deservedly be exposed to relentless criticism.

The present emergency does not, however, call for a greater degree of intrepidity than General Gordon displayed in entering Soochow unarmed, or in appearing without an escort in the stronghold of Suleiman and the slave-dealers. The courage of the man has been subjected to so many extreme tests that this new undertaking is not to be hastily condemned as a foolhardy adventure. He is, moreover, a man of cool and calculating judgment. He knows the Soudanese and believes that his prestige is something to conjure with. He considers the general insurrection which has broken out in the great Empire once ruled by him as a political rather than a religious movement. "I am convinced," he remarked before leaving London, "that it is an entire mistake to regard the Mahdi as in any sense a religious leader: he personifies popular discontent. All the Soudanese are potential Mahdis, just as all the Egyptians are potential Arabis." In his judgment political oppression rather than religious fanaticism is the cause of the rising; the tribes between Suakim and the Nile have revolted against the Turks, Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks who have been plundering them; and the warriors of Kardofan have rallied round the first leader who exhorted them to throw off the yoke of Egyptian bondage. A political rebellion would naturally have fewer terrors for him than a religious war. His presence in Khartoum would give the Soudanese an assurance that they were no longer to be governed on Turkish principles, and might lay down their arms without desparing of obtaining justice.

This is not the view of the Mahdi's campaign and progress which has been generally received. General Stone in his lecture described the sensation caused at Cairo when it was announced that Mohammed Ahmed, emerging from his cave in the Island of Aboo, proclaimed himself to be the Mahdi. He recounted the various stages of the growth of this Arabian crusade, and predicted that if the Mahdi were suffered to rule the Soudan undisturbed he would soon be reigning in Mecca as a rival Caliph to the Sultan, and that the Mussulmans of Persia and India, as well as the Arabs of Syria and the African deserts, would be in arms against Christendom. This is the view of a practical Yankee, who has recently been employed as the Khedive's chief of staff, and is thoroughly conversant with affairs in the East; and General Gordon partially confirms this judgment when he admits that the Arab tribes on both sides of the Red Sea will take fire if the whole of the Eastern Soudan be surrendered to the Mahdi. A successful political movement among Mussulmans against Turkish rule would inevitably kindle religious fanaticism. Even if the Mahdi be a mere puppet, put forward, as General Gordon suspects, by the largest slave-owner in Obeid, another crowning triumph will appeal to the imagination of the children of the desert and be accepted as a conclusive proof that he has a religious mission as the Vicegerent of Allah.

A SENSIBLE VETO.

Governor Cleveland has vetoed a bill authorizing a board of supervisors of one of the counties to issue bonds in payment of bonds shortly to fall due. In doing so he states that he was induced to approve a similar bill last year on the understanding that peculiar and exceptional reasons existed which made the enactment of a special law proper. He adds that his chief objection to the present bill is based upon the fact that if the postponement of the payment of the bonded indebtedness of a county is deemed proper it can be accomplished under the general law which was passed in 1878.

We are glad to see the Governor take this stand against special legislation thus early in the session. It is an evil, as THE TRIBUNE lately pointed out, which the passage of a constitutional amendment, aimed at it, has by no means suppressed. Too large a proportion of the constituents of our law-makers seem to labor under the impression that there is special virtue in a special act, and hence they are not content with availing themselves of general laws. Every such veto tends to remove such an impression. Since the constitutional amendment referred to went into effect the laws relating to boards of supervisors have been subjected to a thorough overhauling and revision, in order to obviate the necessity of just such laws as the one that is now vetoed. The Constitution provides that the Legislature shall pass general laws in all cases which in its judgment may be provided for by general laws. It has provided a general law in relation to the issue of county bonds.

There are many able and experienced Senators and Assemblymen in the present Legislature. We trust they will keep a sharp lookout for these local or special bills. An unnecessary law is in the nature of a nuisance.

DEFECTIVE TESTS FOR INSANITY.

The reports of the Batavia murder case ought to convince the public that a change is needed in the methods by which the opinions of experts are obtained in criminal cases where insanity is pleaded as a defence. At present the counsel for the defence draws up a hypothetical case, in which he emphasizes every point that can make for his theory, and slurs every hostile point. The counsel for the prosecution on his part makes up a similar hypothetical case, in which he reverses this procedure, dwelling strongly upon the points which favor the theory of the defendant's sanity, and glancing lightly over those which tell against that theory. The expert who is called upon to answer these questions is manifestly put at a great disadvantage, and it may easily happen that he will be disabled from giving a trustworthy and accurate opinion. The practice as it exists is clearly not in the interests of justice, nor is it scientific. There is no justification for a method which tends to disguise and confuse the real issue, and to prevent the expert from exercising the special knowledge he is supposed to possess. In Austria and France all such cases are primarily submitted to two or more medical experts, who are afforded every facility for examining the accused, and are allowed, if it be thought necessary, to take him to an asylum and keep him there several days to complete the diagnosis of his condition. Then they make a written report, which is submitted to the Court, and which forms the basis of oral examination. By this means the unembarrassed exercise of the expert's skill and knowledge is secured, and he proceeds upon the actual facts of the case, instead of upon a hypothetical exhibit which is almost certain to be unduly colored, and therefore misleading and inaccurate.

The truth is that there is needed a consensus between the law and the medical profession in this regard. Expert opinions upon insanity cases must be the only trustworthy ones, provided that they are really expert opinions, and that they are based upon free and full examination of the subject, and not upon fictitious sketches made with a special hostile or friendly motive. No medical man ought to be asked to stake his reputation upon replies to questions prepared expressly to help one side of the case, and no jury ought to be required to form a judgment upon such inadequate and partial testimony. The expert can only form a correct diagnosis by studying the previous history and the present condition of the subject, and if he has not had the opportunities for informing himself on these heads, his opinion can only be of secondary importance.

Perhaps the most direct way to adjust this matter would be to adopt the French practice, by which the Court calls the experts, and neither the prosecution nor the defence is allowed to tamper with them. But it is clear that our practice is radically defective, and that it needs amendment specially in these two particulars: First, no medical witnesses who have not made a special study of insanity should be admitted; second, the evidence of alienists should be taken in the simplest and most direct manner, after thorough personal examination of the defendant by them, and the circuitous and distorting hypothetical cases should be discarded.

THE RENT MARKET.

The statements of leading real estate dealers given in to-day's TRIBUNE show that there will be no decline this year in rents, except where the property is undesirable. In what is known as the dry-goods district leases expire on February 1, and renewals have been made in many instances at a small advance on last year's rates. There are very few vacant stores in the market. The demand for desirable property of that kind indicates a healthful condition of the dry-goods business.

Notwithstanding the large increase in office property in the city within the last few years, it has not kept up with the demand for first-class offices. Real estate dealers report stiff rates for offices in fire-proof buildings. There are several reasons for the increased demand for such property. Nearly every large business enterprise in the country now finds it advantageous to open an agency in this city. That serves continually to augment the number of offices. Then, with the improvement in the methods of doing business, and the increased value of time, professional men are no longer inclined to climb ricketty stairs or to run the risks incident to the transaction of business in buildings that are not fire-proof. Hence new buildings with elevators and all the modern improvements find plenty of tenants who are willing to pay fair rates.

The increase in rapid transit facilities, the opening of the Brooklyn Bridge, the erection of new exchange buildings and similar improvements have added materially to the value of real estate in the lower part of the city. This additional value has led to higher assessments, which, with the large increase in taxation this year, would naturally lead to an increase in rents. No doubt, as stated by real estate dealers who are quoted elsewhere in to-day's TRIBUNE, a general improvement in business before May 1 will lead to a higher rent market. But at the present time there appears to be little change from last year's rates. What is true of office and store rents is also largely true of dwelling houses. The agents indicate a probable slight decrease in the rates on third-class apartments and tenements, but no material change otherwise. This, notwithstanding the fact that 2,023 new buildings were erected last year. Perhaps the erection of 1,201 new flat and tenement houses will account for the slight depression in the rates on such property. New-York is growing rapidly, as shown by the fact that business is creeping up Fifth-ave. and other leading streets devoted to residences.

The city is deficient in business streets and avenues as compared with other large cities. This has led to remarkable changes within a few years on Fourteenth and Twenty-third-sts. Such changes will probably continue with even greater rapidity in the future. But a great deal of good property on the west side and in the upper part of the city will, as a result of this change, be occupied by fine residences.

THE AZTEC HIEROGLYPHICS.

A dispatch from Matamoras, Mexico, says that "the Rev. Father Damazo Soto, of Concordia, in the State of Vera Cruz, has discovered the key to the Aztec writings." It is not possible to judge from this vague statement the significance of the alleged discovery. So far as is known there is not much in the strictly Aztec writings that requires a key. The hieroglyphics in use by the occupant of the Anahuac valley at the time of the Spanish Conquest were not of a recondite character. The principle was that of syllabic phonetics joined with a crude symbolism akin to that of the North American Indians. The Aztec hieroglyphics were for the most part not beyond the slender attainments of the ecclesiastics who followed in the wake of the Spanish conquerors, and these ecclesiastics learned the art themselves so well that for a considerable period many of their picture-writings were confounded by modern archæologists with those of the Aztecs. It may be, however, that the discovery refers not to the Aztec but to the Toltec writings, and if this be the case it may lead to interesting developments. The Toltecs, who were the precursors of the Aztecs in Mexico, and who flourished in Central America, where they have left marvellous relics at Palenque, Copan and Yucatan, were of a higher civilization than the people who succeeded them, and they had a pure system of hieroglyphics, of which, unfortunately, few specimens are known to exist, the most accessible being in the Dresden Museum.

The fragments of Toltec writing which have been preserved, however, are sufficient to justify the conclusion that this people were accustomed to employ for their religious and astrological writings a special hieroglyphic corresponding in some respects to the Egyptian hieratic script. We are not aware that any of this priestly text has been deciphered fully, though enough is known of it to warrant the belief that much of the language employed conveyed an esoteric meaning and was intended to conceal supposed truths from the eyes of the vulgar, much as alchemists used to conceal the real significance of their speculations and formulas in the Middle Ages. Could this Toltec hieratic writing be deciphered, it is probable that new light would be thrown upon the religion and science of that ancient and interesting people, and such information would be particularly welcome in this era of analytic inquiry. But the Aztecs appear to have nothing to conceal, and we know as much about them as is either necessary or desirable. They were semi-civilized; they had sanguinary religious rites; they possessed but one form of picture-writing; they were inferior in all respects to the Toltecs. Unless, therefore, Father Soto has penetrated the esoteric hieroglyphics of the latter, there is not much reason to anticipate important results from his alleged discovery. Central America has still much to teach us, but Mexico comparatively little.

Four hundred Paris Socialists have "resolved" that revolution is the only remedy for the present stringency in the labor market. That is to say, these brilliant creatures hold that the only way to help the poor is to put a stop to the employment of labor entirely.

THE TRIBUNE ALMANAC for 1884 contains one table which would have brought a flush of pleasure to Mr. Greeley's face, if he could have been permitted to see it. A compact statistical table was the delight of his eyes, and on page 35 is to be found one of those remarkable exhibits of facts by means of figures which invariably excited his admiration. This table gives the votes of the House of Representatives on general Tariff Acts by States and sections from 1842 to 1883. The Tariff history of the country during the last forty years is clearly brought before the eye of the reader in this orderly table. It is an admirable illustration of the informative virtue of statistics.

How would this Democratic Presidential ticket do:

For President, WILLIAM R. MORRISON, of Illinois.
For Vice-President, SAMUEL J. RANDALL, of Pennsylvania.
Platform, Horizontal reduction,
Perpendicular drinking.

Considering the general tendency of the people of this country to shift about from one place to another, it is worthy of note that of the 160 members of the New-York Legislature 83 were born in the counties which they now represent, and 44 more are natives of the State. Twelve were born in other States and 21 in foreign countries, Ireland, of course, contributing the majority of the foreign-born. As it is a Republican Legislature, it follows as a matter of course that the number of veterans of the late war in both houses is almost double the number in the previous Legislature, which was Democratic. The average of age is about the same this year as last. The senior Senator is Mr. McCarthy, who is seventy years old, and the youngest is Mr. Fassett, who is thirty-one. The senior Assemblyman is Mr. Noxon, of Saratoga, who is seventy-one years of age, and the youngest is Mr. Hasbrouck, of Ulster, who is twenty-three. Mr. Littlejohn is sixty-six years old and Mr. Roosevelt twenty-six. In general character the present Legislature is the best that has been chosen for several years; and it is to be hoped that its record of good works will be equally good.

A New-Jersey witness has just sworn that he considered that there was a difference between telling a lie and not telling the truth. He is obviously the man to explain the difference between "a tariff for revenue only" and free trade.

General Lord Wolseley recently declared in an after-dinner speech that the British army is more effective now than it was before the Crimean war. It is certainly to be hoped so, for when the Crimean war occurred it was in anything but a satisfactory condition, and but for the fact that the Russian difficulties were great, the time then occupied in a literal regeneration of the English force would hardly have been available. It is not much praise to say of the British army that it is in the same condition that it was in thirty years ago, for this is clearly equivalent to admitting that it could not cope with any Continental army to-day. And perhaps that may be the truth, though Lord Wolseley's countrymen are not likely to admit it.

Mr. Barnum's white elephant may not be as white as Mary's little lamb, but then, like the tariff issue in the Democratic party, there's no doubt about its being an elephant.

The London press is the cheapest and most serviceable advertising medium which Mr. Barnum has ever found. It offers solid columns of the incense of publicity to His Holiness, the White Elephant. Generous in the allowance of space freely reserved for the illustrious beast even in the densely crowded pages of the penny press. Full biographical sketches accompany the accounts of his capture, journey overland to ship, and voyage across seas to the Mersey. Long special dispatches from Liverpool announce his arrival and shipment to London, and a sudden demonstration of enterprise in the collection of local news follows his appearance at the Zoological Gardens in the house once occupied by Jumbo. Toung Talong, which is His Holiness's title on earth, is treated by the press with more distinguished consideration than any European monarch, general or statesman would have commanded. These delicate attentions, if not appreciated by the Burmese pachyderm, are not lost upon the enterprising American showman.

Judging by the remarkable exhibition of the fine art of defective memory exhibited by some of the witnesses called in the legislative investigations of city affairs, we may expect some of these days to read the following: *Question*—Mr. Blank, can you inform this committee whether or no you paid off the National debt last year? *Answer*—I cannot recollect, my memory is not clear on that point. I may have done so, but I couldn't swear positively.

"Lives of great men," as published in the newspapers, "all remind us we may make our own sublime,"—by the liberal and judicious employment of our imaginative faculties in conjunction with the creative skill of the Reporter of the Period. As an illustration we may point to a biography of Mr. Mackey, the "bonanza" celebrity, recently published by a Western paper. In that remarkable effort the public is informed that Mr. Mackey went to California in 1849, and found the California and Consolidated Virginia mines in full blast, and "the principal field for money-making." No wonder Messrs. Mackey, Flood and O'Brien made their fortunes if they were able to realize upon the stock of their mines so many years before the Comstock Lode was opened. With such a start anybody could get rich.

McGlory's counsel argued that while a licensed vendor of intoxicating drinks is responsible for the acts of his agent, no such responsibility can rest upon the saloon keeper who does business without a license. The admission of this ingenious plea would of course put a premium upon law-breaking, and release the McGlory class of many embarrassments. The court, however, naturally failed to see the point of the argument.

The German Government has thought proper to dignify a French libel upon the Imperial family and the aristocracy of Berlin by police suppression. There is not much wisdom in this policy. Books of that kind are best unnoticed. Left alone they sink by their own weight into the gutter where they sprang. But when they are singled out for Government prosecution and suppression they become notorious, and are sought for with all the avidity forbidden fruit excites. Free publication for libels of that character kills them much more effectually than any other mode of treatment.

The restoration of Cardinal Ledochowski to the Archbishopric of Posen may not, as Herr von Gossler predicts, "jeopardize the peace of Church and State," but it certainly would convince the world that there was no doubt about Prince Bismarck having gone to Canossa.

The "Bersecker rage," which according to Mr Carlyle inheres in the Anglo Saxon race, appears to have broken out at Annapolis, where the students have spontaneously combusted and fallen to hazing again. It is probably a consequence of the remnant of savagery which lingers in young blood that these students are unable to realize the ignoble character of this form of amusement. Since, however, they do not realize it, their teachers are in duty bound to reinforce their crude judgment, and put a stop to the practice peremptorily.

The Chinese Government appears to be emulating Mr. Winkle. It announces that it is "going to begin," by ordering all the provincial Governors to send in returns of the number of troops they can furnish. According to Western notions this is rather a tardy measure. If the Emperor's Council does not know by this time what war material it can command, and if it is only beginning to mobilize its forces when the enemy is in its front, the returns from the provinces are hardly likely to be of much use in *this* war, though they may come in handy for the next one.

PERSONAL.

The widow of General Custer is spending the winter in Detroit, the guest of her late husband's sister, Mrs. Calhoun.

Dr. Alba Raymond, president of the Académie de Langue Française des Etats-Unis, of Boston, has been decorated by the committee of the Foreign Exhibition for his poem, 'L'Amérique,' recited by him on the French day. He has also received a gold medal and a diploma.

Miss Emily Faithfull is now in San Francisco, after visiting the Mormons at Salt Lake City. President Taylor and the leading officers of the Mormon Church courteously afforded her ample facilities for her inquiries among their people, and she lectured to a large audience at the Salt Lake Theatre.

Ex-Governor Fenton has been for some time in the city under medical treatment for a malady which has troubled him for several years. Yesterday Dr. Edward L. Keyes, assisted by other physicians and surgeons, performed the operation of lithotrity upon him so successfully that he is expected soon to be restored to health.

Frederick Douglass, in spite of his age, walks about Washington as briskly as a boy. He weighs more than 200 pounds, his hair is white, and his health is perfect. He lives in the old manor house of Van Hook, who so hated negroes that whenever he sold land he stipulated with the purchaser that no colored person ever should become the owner of it.

The well-known Democratic politician Edward Kearney, whose influence in Tammany Hall is second only to that of John Kelly, has gone to Hot Springs, in Arkansas, for a few weeks. He will be in New-Orleans at the time of the Mardi Gras celebration, and will be joined there by Police Commissioner Sidney P. Nichols and other Tammany chieftains.

The late Representative Mackey, of South Carolina, is said to have first met Miss Sumter, who afterward became his wife, when she was twelve years old and he twenty-three. She was beautiful but uneducated and poor. He obtained her mothers' permission to have her educated at Oberlin at his expense, and she spent five years there, during which time he did not see her until the day before she graduated, when he and her mother went to Oberlin to witness the exercises and bring her home. On their way back to Charleston the party stopped at Philadelphia, Bishop Simpson was called in and the young couple were made husband and wife.

The Rev. William Fisken, Presbyterian minister at Stamfordham, Northumberland, England, is dead at the age of nearly eighty years. He and his brother Thomas, who survives him, were the inventors of the steam plough. It is a little singular that the appliance which perfected the plan of the brothers, who had been working together at the steam plough, suggested itself to each of them independently and almost simultaneously. The late Mr. William Chartres, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, the solicitor employed by the Fiskens, used to tell how the two brothers wrote to him on the same day about the final discovery, but that he received William's letter first. Mr. Fisken also invented a potato-sowing machine, an apparatus for heating churches, and the "steam tackle" which has helped to render the steam plough of so much practical use.

GENERAL NOTES.

The Albany Evening Journal calls the attention of the Civil Service Commissioners to the fact that on the same floor of the Capitol on which their own office is situated the doors opening into two committee rooms bear the misspelled signs, "Miscellaneous," and "Greivances."

The recent decree of the Prefect of Police forbidding private individuals to collect the contents of Paris dust-bins has been suspended, much to the delight of the thousands of rag-pickers whose means of subsistence it threatened. It is said that the 500 merchants who employ the rag-pickers realize several millions of dollars annually by the sale of this refuse.

The San Francisco Bulletin states that while there has been a falling off in the aggregate immigration in California, the diminution is in the Chinese supply, and the influx of white immigrants has increased. As compared with the year preceding the enactment of the Restriction Act, a net loss of 29,329 on all the arrivals is shown. But taking into account only the white immigration during the same period of seventeen months, a net gain of 13,219 appears.

The Rev. Samuel W. Dike's suggestion, lately published and approved by THE TRIBUNE, that Congress appoint a Commission to investigate the facts of marriage and divorce, preparatory to legislation on the subject, finds hearty encouragement in *The Independent*, which remarks: "The provision that is now made for the study and treatment of the ripened harvest of crime should be accompanied with consideration of its origin in weak or corrupt homes."

A recent description in THE TRIBUNE of the Bohemian colony of New-York stated that there were 15,000 persons of that nationality in this city. It is rather surprising to learn from *The Cleveland Herald* that the Bohemians of Cleveland number 20,000, and that no other city in the country except Chicago contains so many. They support two newspapers, one Republican and one Democratic, maintain a theatre in steady prosperity, and several churches, and nearly every head of a family who has lived in the city for any considerable time has a house of his own.

A few days ago a gentleman who was about leaving Constantinople for London with a manuscript copy of the Koran five hundred years old, which had been in the possession of his family for a hundred years, was despoiled of his treasure by a Customs official, the latter, with many devout exclamations, seizing it as State property. Nor has the gentleman been able to recover the manuscript or to obtain the smallest recompense, and the treasure, for which it is said that $30,000 was recently offered, and which would probably have enriched before long some European museum, now reposes at Ghidiz Kiosk.

MUSIC AND DRAMA.

GERMAN TRAGEDY AT THE THALIA.

The patrons of the Thalia Theatre were treated last night to three hours of lachrymose tragedy illustrating the story of "The Patient Grissel," a theme frequently handled before Friedrich Halm wrote the tragedy enacted last night. The German tragedy is gloomy without a ray to lighten it and fearfully oppressive with its weight of sorrowful heroics. The occasion of its revival is the engagement of Mme. Magda Irschick, an actress who shows thorough schooling, although she is deficient in emotional warmth. As performed, the tragedy compelled a generous tribute of tears from an audience that was numerous and of excellent character.

FOURTEENTH STREET THEATRE.

Mr. Thomas Kean's play of "Unser Fritz, the Bohemian," with Mr. J. K. Emmet in the chief part, maintains itself in favor with the local public at the Fourteenth Street Theatre. The story of this play is romantic even to the verge of wild exaggeration. The language, instead of being exactly matched with the characters that speak it, and in that way widely diversified, is, mostly, of one and the same strain. The movement is impelled by situations that are improbable and incidents that are forced. Conduct and manners among the nobility of Germany receive a portraiture of the most startling description. Nevertheless the piece is well constructed for the purpose of showing Mr. J. K. Emmet, and it arouses and sustains an interested curiosity to see how it will end. In the acting Mr. Emmet occasionally drops into a feeble imitation of Joseph Jefferson; but he is quite original in singing a number of songs, all to the same tune, and in swinging a string of sausages so as to entangle the neck of a negro servant. The acting of his company is uniformly queer. This is the cast:

Fritz, the Bohemian	J. K. Emmet
Tony Bougares	Martin J. Cody
Marie Claudix	Clara Baker
The Waif	Baby Mamie Livesey
Duke De Bessiers	H. A. Moray
Lord Philip De Chambroy	George Sprague
Sig. Algerolfi	Maurice Pike
Adolph Spinks	Edward Rue
Julius Cæsar	C. W. Swain
Fleurette	Kate Blancke
Duchesse De Bessiers	Lizzie Scanlon
Julia Flyaway	Kate French
Little Katherina	Emma Livesey

COMEDY THEATRE.

This is the place that lately was the San Francisco Minstrel Theatre. "Fun on the Bristol" is given here, this week, by what is styled the Rice Travestry Company. The incident is not precisely suggestive of early spring vegetables; still, it is to be noted with the rest of the theatrical facts, "Fun on the Bristol" is a mere frolic, and an old one, and it still makes people laugh—who are easily pleased.

"EDGEWOOD FOLKS."

At the Grand Opera House on Monday night Sol Smith Russell made his reappearance for a week's engagement as *Tom Dilloway* in "Edgewood Folks." He was greeted with a comfortably filled house, which fell into an easy-going enjoyment of a well-worn piece, which is rather insipid and depends for about all of its spice upon the principal actor. Mr. Russell was as amusing as ever, and kept the audience in a state of laughter, led by a boy who occupied an orchestra chair and nearly went into convulsions of merriment, and by a large man with a heavy voice, who kept everybody in good humor near him. Mr. Russell's comical facial expressions were a perpetual source of delight for the evening, and his songs, "Down where the Tadpoles Dwell" and "Sophia! Phila! Phia," and Hilda's love story, were received with spontaneous bursts of laughter and with recalls.

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