AMUSEMENTS.

WALLACK'S—Speed the Plough.
BOWERY THEATRE—Avenger, Busy Bob, Hand some Jack, &c.; two performances.
THEATRE FRANCAIS AND BROOKLYN ACADEMY.—New York—Genevieve de Brabant.
APOLLO HALL, cor. Broadway and 28th st.—Hibernian Minstrels.
COOPER INSTITUTE—Sherman's March to the Sea.
SNEDECOR'S ART GALLERY, 765 Broadway—Paintings.
NEW YORK CIRCUS, 14th st., opposite Academy of Music—Blue Beard, and Turque Francaise. Matinée every day at 2½ P. M.
PIKE'S OPERA HOUSE—La Chanson de Fortunio, and Les Bavards.
WOOD'S MUSEUM—Ixion; or The Man at the Wheel. Living and Wild Animals.
STEINWAY HALL—New York Harmonic Society, Christmas Night.

The Sun.

It Shines for All.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1868.

Terms of the Sun.

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The Amnesty Proclamation.

President JOHNSON has issued a proclamation pardoning everybody for being engaged in the rebellion. It will be found in another part of this paper. It frees JEFFERSON DAVIS from his indictment, and relieves the Hon. HORACE GREELEY from the obligations of his bail bond, so that he will be able to leave for the Court of St. James's after the 4th of March, without any anxiety on that account. It restores MASON and SLIDELL, JACOB THOMPSON, JOHN C. BRECKINRIDGE, and the whole crew of rebels to their country, provided they see fit to return. It is as complete and sweeping as its author could possibly make it. Not a single traitor [illegible] cepted from its [illegible] is excepted from its benefits.

[illegible] WANTED [illegible] operation.

It will be observed, however, that this amnesty does not affect the disqualification to hold office provided by the fourteenth amendment to the National Constitution, as well as by the Constitutions of several States.

Prospective Retirement of Judge Nelson.

Senator WILSON has introduced into the Senate of the United States a bill providing that any Judge of the Supreme Court may, after having attained the age of 70 years, resign, and shall thereafter, while he lives, receive the same salary as when in active service at the date of his resignation.

The age of Judge NELSON is stated to be rising 76 years. If he retires under Mr. WILSON's bill, we hope the Government will be fortunate enough to find a successor possessing one seventy-sixth part of his capacity.

Mr. WILSON's bill is wise. A faithful Judge, whose active life has been given to the service of the public, as richly deserves to have his full salary continued as long as he lives, as some of our present State Judges deserve to be sent to the State Prison. Mr. WILSON's bill will contribute something toward preserving judicial independence and integrity; and any cost at which they can be preserved is to be accounted cheap.

It will be a sad day for the country which witnesses the final retirement from the bench of this Circuit and of the Supreme Court of the United States of the calm, self-possessed, patient, impartial, incorruptible, clear-headed, brave, learned, and illustrious NELSON. Not in our day can we expect to look upon his like again. We shall long miss from the court room his remarkably fine and commanding person, which is but the outward semblance of his rare and superior qualities of character.

Fullerton.

We have read carefully through the long account given by Mr. WILLIAM FULLERTON himself, before the Investigating Committee appointed by Congress, of his part in the whiskey business. After reading it we tried to think of some adjective which would express our opinion of it. We looked in the dictionary for the definition of fishy. One definition is, having the smell of fish. Well, we think that, in time, fish would come to have the same kind of a smell; so, perhaps, we could not find a more fitting word.

We do not mean when we say that it is fishy that it has any *criminal* aspect whatever. For to us it does not seem to have. But if the sort of management upon which Mr. FULLERTON entered is deemed right and proper under the existing law, then we think the sooner the law is altered the better.

Mr. FULLERTON says he was retained by President JOHNSON. We do not think there was anything disgraceful in that, although some people might think there was. It will not do for lawyers who desire a large practice to be over-nice as to who become their clients. We should feel a little afraid, with a client like Mr. JOHNSON, that a President who advocates the repudiation of the public debt might possibly repudiate his own counsel. If, since his retainer, Mr. FULLERTON has had a partial experience of this kind, he has only realized what he had pretty good reason to apprehend.

The business upon which Mr. FULLERTON entered at the request of the President would seem to have been, in its general aspect, rather adapted to the skill of a detective police than to the elevated genius of a good lawyer. Ferreting out offences takes its name from the resemblance of the occupation to the nature and characteristics of ferrets. It may be well enough for a man to imitate a ferret if his taste lies that way.

The difficulty and objection to using ferrets to kill rats about a house—unless they have been thoroughly trained or are muzzled—is that they are prone to suck the blood of the first victim that they overtake, and, having exhausted his veins, leave him where he subsequently becomes offensive.

Between this and the first operation of Mr. FULLERTON and his ally there seems to be a pretty close resemblance. A ferret chases a rat into a hole and seizes him by the throat, and sucks his blood. The first victim that Mr. FULLERTON got hold of, in his effort to ferret out frauds, was Mr. T. E. SMITH, a Collector. He was arrested by a bogus United States Marshal, taken to the office of another lawyer, who acted as his own counsel, and there depleted of ten thousand dollars in money and twenty thousand dollars in bonds; and then, on furnishing bail, he was suffered to depart in peace. The money and bonds were deposited with his counsel to enable him to effect a settlement with the Government if possible. Mr. SMITH all the while protested his innocence, but he was badly frightened and intensely excited, and apprehensive that the disgrace of his arrest would ruin his family. His great anxiety was that it should be kept out of the newspapers, and he was willing to give up everything that he had for the sake of settling the difficulty.

Mr. FULLERTON was very scrupulous about talking with Mr. SMITH while he was under the bogus arrest; but offered, at the same time, to listen to any disclosures which he had to make about whiskey frauds, and talked freely with his counsel in his presence. This amounted to about as much as if he had refused to talk with the man unless he took the trouble to shout through a speaking trumpet. No practical difficulty was interposed by Mr. FULLERTON's scruples to the parties speedily effecting an understanding with each other.

There was a failure to make a settlement or compromise with the Government. The bonds deposited by Mr. SMITH proved worthless, and the money deposited with the lawyer was returned to him, *minus the lawyer's fee*. How much they amounted to does not appear. Checks seem to have passed back and forth like a shuttlecock in battledoor, between Mr. FULLERTON and this lawyer; but we understand Mr. FULLERTON to say, and we do not in the least doubt his word, that they related entirely to other matters.

It is due to Mr. FULLERTON also to state that he says he advised that the man who served the warrant on Mr. SMITH should get himself deputized before serving it. Unfortunately, this excellent and important advice of Mr. FULLERTON was not followed.

There does not seem to have been anything worse in Mr. FULLERTON's conduct than we have referred to above. Some people will think he [illegible] propriety to its utmost verge to stop a dishonest penny and turn an honest one. If Mr. FULLERTON has done anything wrong, he is not conscious of it. He testifies:

"I have been guilty of no act, I have uttered no word, I have disbursed no money, or received any from any quarter or source, in any way calculated to reflect on my position as a good citizen."

This is pretty comprehensive and strong until it reaches the conclusion, and then it becomes rather scattering and indefinite. In order to judge understandingly how much it means, we should require to be informed what Mr. FULLERTON does and what Mr. FULLERTON does not consider consistent with the character of a good citizen. RALPH WALDO EMERSON and the Hon. JOHN MORRISSEY, M. C., might differ on this subject as widely as they do in politics.

We gladly bear testimony to the high standing of Mr. FULLERTON at the bar. We never heard anything against him, except that he was once a Judge of the present Supreme Court; but it was for such a very short time that it ought not necessarily to have corrupted him.

Judge Barnard and Judge McCunn.

Our readers will remember that when an arrest was attempted at a theatre in this city, several months ago, just at the commencement of the play in the evening, on a warrant issued by Judge GEORGE G. BARNARD, Judge BARNARD manifested his respect for himself and for public opinion by stating in open Court that he would not have granted the warrant had he known that it was intended to execute it in such a manner. This raised Judge BARNARD a good deal in our estimation, and we have frequently defended him when he has been assailed since.

We hope that Judge McCUNN will have an equally satisfactory explanation to make as to the issuing of the warrant for the arrest of Mr. BOWLES at so late an hour on Tuesday evening. The arrest at that time, and in the manner in which it was effected, seems to have been a flagrant outrage. We do not understand that there was even a pretence that Mr. BOWLES proposed to leave the city immediately, or why his arrest should not have been made the next morning, and every facility afforded him for procuring bail without being committed to jail at all. It bears the appearance of an act of pure malignity and spite.

We are anxious to think well and to speak well of Judge McCUNN, as we have always been in regard to Judge BARNARD; and we are pained to see his name associated, even innocently, with an act of oppression.

It is said that the practice begins to prevail that petitioners for the benefit of the Bankrupt law are sometimes annoyed and sponged by unscrupulous lawyers interposing an objection to their discharge in the name of unconscious creditors, whereupon long and vexatious examinations of the petitioners are gone into with the expectation that they will finally get wearied out and consent to buy relief by paying liberal sums, which the opposing lawyers and the Registers in Bankruptcy quietly divide between them, the petitioners getting their discharge, but the creditors getting nothing. If any such disgraceful practice prevails, it should be frowned upon and broken up.

When GEORGE PEABODY made his munificent donation for the benefit of the poor of London, his clearly expressed purpose was that the money should be devoted to the erection of comfortable tenement houses, to take the place of the wretched dens in which the humbler classes were and still are compelled to shelter themselves. The houses were built with great care, and on an admirable plan; but so far they have failed to be of any use to the people for whom they were specially intended. Mr. DIGBY, one of the Board of Guardians of the City of London Union, writes to the *Times* on the subject, and says:

"I have called attention publicly to the fact that about six months since one building was half full of lodgers, one building two-thirds occupied, and the remaining house was full. This state of part emptiness could not possibly be in accordance with Mr. PEABODY's wishes. Since then, however, the rooms have been all taken, and are now full, but at such rentals as to entirely exclude the poor, in any acceptation of the term. It is the well-to-do manager of some city business or careful clerk who is encouraged in these homes, and no one who has the slightest look of manual labor or poverty. The whole scheme has degenerated into a commercial speculation. It is made to pay as high a rate of interest as can possibly be squeezed out of it, to the exclusion of the poor.

"There are two of the buildings, one situate in Shoreditch parish and one in Limehouse, where, upon inquiry, it is found that not one poor person from either of those populous parishes has been able to avail himself of these so-called homes; so that, as a means of relief to the neighborhood, those buildings are of no avail."

Mr. DIGBY goes on to say that what is still wanted is one or more buildings containing single rooms rentable at 1s. per week; and he declares that the PEABODY establishment, as at present conducted, is no boon. This furnishes another illustration of the difficulty of really doing good by funds and trusts, and the usual machinery of benevolent societies.

A special despatch to the *Boston Post* from this city says, in respect to SAMUEL BOWLES's arrest:

"Messrs. CHARLES A. DANA, of THE SUN; MURAT HALSTEAD, of the *Cincinnati Commercial*; GEO. BLISS, Jr., and others, visited Judge McCUNN, to have BOWLES placed under bail; but he refused to accommodate them. They then went to Sheriff O'BRIEN, who said he must consult his lawyer, and slipped off. HALSTEAD and DANA offered to take charge of BOWLES, and be responsible for him; but the deputies would not permit it, nor would they take a message to his wife.

"It is evident that FISK had so arranged it as to keep BOWLES in prison all night. HALSTEAD offered, in a fit of friendly enthusiasm, to buy Ludlow street jail, and declared that he would give ten thousand dollars to thwart FISK's purposes."

It is said that our friend HALSTEAD is so disgusted with his non-success that he intends to hurry home, where jails are cheaper than they are in New York.

The *Cincinnati Gazette*, in referring to BOWLES's arrest by order of FISK, indulges in some remarkable head lines, one of which is, "Petty malignity of the chief Erie rascal," and another, "Small-souled spite of a big-bellied Croesus." We fear our staid neighbor of the Queen City has no wholesome fear of the law of libel.

The Hon. JOHN T. HOFFMAN, Governor elect, was yesterday examined before the Congressional Committee on Election Frauds. The subject of the examination was, of course, the statements in his celebrated proclamation charging certain parties with participation in the alleged frauds. As no reporters were admitted, it would not be proper even to hint at the probable character of the information which Mr. HOFFMAN laid before the Committee. We are confident, however, that he fully justified the averments of his proclamation, and have little doubt that, by giving the names of the persons whom he accused, and revealing the evidence of their nefarious transactions, he put the Committee upon the track of important discoveries, which will prove of great advantage to the public hereafter.

HAVE TARGETS REPLENISHED.

At their sittings this month, the Grand Jury of the Sessions indicted a Brooklyn man for giving "straw bail," under the following circumstances: A plaintiff commenced a suit in this city to recover about $2,000 for money lent; and the defendant being a recusant, his property to an ample amount to secure the debt was attached. After a long delay, the plaintiff got judgment, when it turned out that the attachment had been discharged on an *ex parte* bond given by the Brooklyn man and a confederate, each swearing that he was worth $7,000 over and above all liabilities. An execution was issued on the judgment, but the defendant's property, which was released by this straw bail, had in the mean time been gobbled up and divided among the swindlers. A suit was then commenced on the bail bond, and judgment finally recovered. An execution was issued, but no property of the sureties could be found. The Brooklyn man was examined on supplemental proceedings, when, in order to evade the discovery of property (if he had any), he swore that he had long been insolvent. Having thus walked into the trap, the papers were laid before the Grand Jury, who promptly found an indictment against the surety. This being only one of hundreds of like instances, we hope our new District Attorney will thoroughly thrash out the man of straw, and send him to Sing Sing as an example to his numerous compeers.

In behalf of some thousands of poor little boys and girls, to whom Christmas dinners and suppers are to be given to-day, and for a few days to come, we suggest to the adults who are called upon to make speeches on these occasions, before the meal commences, to make them as brief as possible. After the hungry little stomachs are filled, prose away as much as you like; but before that time every minute of unnecessary delay is a trial of childish patience which no good Christian ought to be guilty of inflicting.

The journals of Delaware are discussing an old subject with new zeal. The subject is the drunken habits of the Hon. WILLARD SAULSBURY, one of the United States Senators from that State. It seems that he was recently seen to go into the house of his colleague, Senator BAYARD, in an intoxicated condition, and both Democratic and Republican newspapers call upon the Senate to expel him for it. The facts of the present occurrence hardly seem to require so severe a remedy. Mr. SAULSBURY has so often been drunk in his place in the Senate without any notice being taken of it by that body, that it would hardly be fair to deal with him so sharply for merely going into the house of another Senator when inebriated. Indeed, next to an asylum for drunkards, that seems to us one of the very fittest places for him to hide his shame in. Certainly it is much better that he should seek the privacy of his colleague's house than that he should go reeling about the streets, or stagger into the Senate to waste the time of that august assembly in maudlin harangues.

It would be a very good thing if the Senate would expel every one of its members who is ever seen drunk in its hall, no matter what his politics. But the precedents are all against such a method of dealing with the subject.

The unanimity of the press in condemnation of the manner of Mr. BOWLES's arrest is remarkable. Journals of all parties and all latitudes denounce the trick of seizing him at so late an hour, of refusing to allow him to procure bail or even to send a note to his wife, as mean and pitiful. Mr. FISK probably does not yet understand what a mistake he has made, but we dare say the truth will dawn upon him before long.

A correspondent at Carroll City, Iowa, wishes us to inform him about the velocipede. We answer that it is a very amusing and very exercising machine for locomotion. It consists of two wheels one before the other, connected by a steel or iron reach, bearing a saddle in which the rider sits. It is driven by pedals attached to the fore wheel and keeping the rider's legs pretty busy. On a perfectly smooth track, such as a board floor, a new Nicolson or asphalium pavement, or hard earth road in the country, it can be driven at the rate of fifteen or twenty miles an hour, without very great effort; but on a rough road its propulsion is labor indeed. In this city it may be seen in operation every evening at the school of the Messrs. Pearsall, corner of Broadway and Twenty-second street. Velocipedes cost from $100 to $125. There are three makers in this city, whose styles, though all good, differ considerably from each other.

Christmas Amusements.

Humpty Dumpty is not the only one who has "had a fall." Poor Mlle. Tostée has, we are sorry to say, met with that misfortune, and the fall has been so serious that it may be many weeks before the public will again hear their favorite. Meantime Irma takes the part of *Roland* in "Les Bavards," in Tostée's place, and the matinée proposed for to-day goes over to Saturday.

Neither will there be any music this afternoon at the French Theatre.

At Wallack's to-night the famous old play "Speed the Plough" will be given; and at Steinway Hall the Oratorio of the Messiah will be sung by the Harmonic Society. The seats, we believe, are nearly all taken for this performance.

Matinées are to be given at the New York Circus and at the Bowery Theatre, and by the Hibernian Minstrels at Apollo Hall.

CHRISTMAS DAY.

Services in the Churches and Institutions—Decorations, Festivities, &c., Yesterday.

The glad song of redemption, "Peace on earth and good will to men," will be reverberated from a thousand Christian altars, and will be sung by millions of human voices throughout Christendom to-day. The song is old, but the theme is new, and the practice and precept of good will by men toward men, if made universal, would spare us many of those "wars and rumors of wars" with which our hearts and our ears are periodically pained. A glance at our columns this morning will present the reader with a number of places from which to select his place of worship.

The Howard Mission children will gather in their school-room to-day at 11 o'clock, and entertain visitors before dinner, and also after that interesting exercise.

The children of the Five Points House of Industry will gather in the chapel for dinner service at 11 A. M., after which dinner will be served to them, to be followed by miscellaneous exercises.

The Ladies' Five Points Mission, on the site of the Old Brewery, will hold similar services this forenoon and afternoon. An addition is now being made to this edifice which will enlarge its sphere of usefulness.

Christmas day will be celebrated with befitting hospitality at the public institutions on the Islands. Any hypochondriacal person of weak appetite can have it sharpened by going round to some rendezvous of the newsboys and hearing these interesting Arabs discuss, in anticipation, the big feed Mr. O'Connor is to give them to-day. We hope to visit them, and to know that they sat down to something diff'rent and better befitting the occasion than they had before them on Thanksgiving day. Those desiring to visit these literary venders will find them at 49 Park place, near Church street.

The Commissioners of Charities have provided a sufficiency of poultry for the supply of every inmate of the charitable and penal institutions. At Randall's Island the usual Christmas exercises will take place in the forenoon, in presence of the Commissioners, while in the evening a large Christmas tree will be lighted and presents given to the children. At the Lunatic Asylum a magic lantern will be exhibited to-day, and a general good time indulged in, while at the Almshouse a ball of the inmates will take place. The Penitentiary, Workhouse, Tombs, and other places of detention will also have their festivities. The Commissioners, Messrs. Bowen, Nash, Jones, Bell, and Brennan, will visit the Islands, not even omitting Hart's Island, where the Reformatory School boys will have a good time.

The following is a programme of the services to be held to-day in some of the churches.

AT ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL,

The great organ, which has [illegible] recently been received, will be played to-day in its full strength for the first time. The music will be of the best quality. The services will be held as follows: At 4½ A. M., solemn mass, to be followed by low masses at intervals of half an hour until 10½, when the pontifical high mass will be held. Archbishop McCloskey will be the celebrant, assisted by a large number of the clergy. The sermon will be preached by the Rev. Dr. Anderdon, of England. In the afternoon, at 3½ o'clock, vespers will be held. The first mass, mass No. 5 in D, composed by the musical director, Professor Gustavus Schmitz, will be sung by a volunteer choir of thirty-five singers. At the high mass Haydn's second mass in C and an offertory, "Quoniam Mihi," by Mercadante, will be performed. The solos will be sung by Mrs. Laura Gould, Mrs. Werner, H. Schmitz, and A. Schot. At the elevation of the host, Mrs. F. H. Gross (soprano) will sing the aria "Ecce panis." At vespers the solos will be given by Signors Cerutti and Alma and Madame Connor. The organ will be played by Mr. G. Schmitz.

ST. STEPHEN'S R. C. CHURCH.

Mass will be performed at St. Stephen's Church, in East Twenty-eighth street, at 4½ o'clock A. M., and a solemn high mass at 10½. The Rev. Dr. McGlynn will officiate, assisted by the Rev. Father Duncan, the deacon and sub-deacon. The church is decorated with evergreens and natural flowers, principally about the altar; and a full-length figure of the crucified Saviour has been erected so as to be in view of all the congregation. A new composition by the assistant organist, Professor Wm. Berge, will be sung for the first time. The solos will be rendered by Mme. de Lussan, Mrs. Berge, Mme. Anschutz, Miss Smith, and Signors Tamaro and Coletti. The instrumental music will be by Theodore Thomas's orchestra of forty musicians.

ST. ANN'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

At this church, in Eighth street, similar services will be held at 6½ A. M. and 4½ P. M., by Father Preston and Assistant Pastor Keogh. A choir of twenty voices, under the direction of Mr. George H. Morgan, organist, will perform Mozart's Twelfth Mass, and Miss Adelaide Phillips will sing a solo. This church is decorated with evergreens and the altar covered with natural flowers. The fronts of the galleries and organ loft are festooned with garlands of spruce and holly, interspersed with stars and wreaths. A statue of the infant Jesus, elevated at the back of the chancel, has a background of frosting, and is encircled with laurel and red holly berries. Each of the three sub-altars are covered by real point lace, relieved by blue gauze. The body of the church has been festooned with laurel, spruce, and fir, and the chancel will be brilliantly illuminated with wax lights. On either side of the large gilt cross there will be candelabra and bouquets of camellias and other flowers. On either side of the altar there are large candelabra holding thirty-eight wax tapers each, and at either side of these are illuminated vases holding bouquets. The vestments of the altar are of white brocade, richly embroidered. Natural flowers also enter largely into the decorations of other parts of the church.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH.

High mass will be sung at 5 o'clock A. M. At 10½ Haydn's Grand Mass No. 4 in B flat, Hallelujah Chorus by Handel (from the Messiah), and Adeste Fidelis. The sermon will be delivered by the Rev. Father Quinn.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH.

The services at this church to-morrow will be unusually impressive. There will be five masses celebrated. The first, a solemn high mass at 5 o'clock; the second, third and fourth respectively, at half past six, half past seven, nine o'clock, and the last, which will also be a solemn high mass, at half-past ten. St. Mary's choir, composed of forty male and female voices, will sing Cerutti's Grand Mass in "C," arranged by Prof. Wm. Bayer for quartet and grand chorus. Solos will be sustained by the Misses Boyer, Cox, Serre, Marley, and Messrs. Lacey, McCabe, McDermott, and Cullen, all under the direction of Prof. Bayer.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S.

St. Francis Xavier's Church, in West Sixteenth street, is undergoing repairs, which cannot be completed in time to admit of much decoration to the interior of the edifice. The altar, however, has been decorated with natural flowers, and will be brilliantly lighted. Masses will be held almost continuously from 4½ A. M. to 10½, when grand high mass will be celebrated by the Rev. Father Daly.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL.

At the Church of St. Vincent de Paul (French Catholic), in West Twenty-third street, near Sixth avenue, the decorations are plentiful, and in good taste. High mass will be held at 10½, at which some excellent music will be rendered.

ST. LAURENCE'S R. C. CHURCH.

At St. Laurence's R. C. Church in Eighty-fourth street, between Madison and Fifth avenues, the first mass will be at 5½ o'clock in the morning. A chorus of boys will sing various Christmas carols, accompanied by the organ. Several masses will succeed until 10½ o'clock, when the grand solemn high mass of the day will commence, the singing at which, under the direction of B. O'Donnell, organist, will consist of Mercadante's celebrated mass in B flat major, the solos in which will be rendered by Mrs. Kate McDonald, soprano; M. J. A. O'Donnell, tenor; and E. Colbert, baritone. At the offertory the boy choristers will join with the choir in singing Lambillotte's well-known "Christmas Pastorale." The celebrant will be the Rev. Father Marshall, of the Society of Jesus, Assistant Pastor, who will be assisted by a deacon and sub-deacon, together with an unusually large number of acolytes. The eloquent and gifted Pastor, the Rev. Father Clackmeyer, of the same Society, and until recently Vice-President of St. John's College, Fordham, will deliver a fitting sermon on the occasion.

At St. James's R. C. Church, at 10½ A. M., at high mass, the following named pieces of sacred music will be performed in St. James's R. C. Church, James street, near Chatham square:

"General's Mass in G Minor," by a choir of eight voices. Soprano solo, "Preghiera," by Meyerbeer, M. Savoldi. Duet, "Ave Maria," by Campana; tenor, Signor Chiesa, and soprano. "Sanctus Benedictus" and "Agnus Dei," by Goldegani, quartet and chorus.

The choir consists of: Organist, Mr. C. Melville; soprano, Madame Salvotti; contralto, Miss J. Murphy; tenor, Signor Chiesa; basso, Mr. F. Meville.

The following is the programme for some of the Protestant Episcopal churches:

ST. ALBAN'S.

To-day, at 10 o'clock, the choral matins will be chanted, and at 10:45 the solemn celebration will be held at this church, when the following order of services will be carried out, to be followed by a sermon by the rector, the Rev. C. W. Morrill. The services will be conducted by the Rev. Father Morrill, assisted by the Rev. Mell. W. Noyes and the Rev. Flavel S. Mines, assistant priests:

Processional—"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing." Proper Psalms: 89, 110, 132; Gregorian. Cantate; Gregorian. Benedic; Gregorian. Hymn 63. Sermon. Magnificat; Peasgeau. Offertory—"All my heart this night rejoices." Recessional—"Shout the Glad Tidings."

The services commenced at this place at 9 o'clock last evening, with the above programme, and at midnight with the following order of services:

Processional—"All my Heart this night rejoices." Kyrie; Mozart. Sequence; Adeste Fideles. Creed; Merbeck. Offertory—Anthem.—"Arise, Shine." Sanctus; Mozart. Benedictus, Mozart. Agnus; Mozart. Gloria in Excelsis; Mozart. Recessional; Nunc Dimittis.

FRENCH CHURCH DU ST. ESPRIT.

The French Church du St. Esprit, in Twenty-second street, near Fifth avenue, is also used by the congregation of the Spanish Church de Santiago. The interior of the edifice has been neatly, but not profusely, decorated with evergreens. The French service will be held at 10 o'clock, when the pastor, Rev. Dr. Verren, will officiate. The Spanish service will be held at 10½ A. M., and will be conducted by Rev. Mr. Riley. The music will be excellent, including Mozart's Twelfth Mass. The solos will be rendered by the two Misses Totten and Señors Martinez and Garcia. Miss Tomaselli will preside at the organ, and Señor Salsedo will act as musical conductor. Last evening the children of the Sabbath school attached to the latter church assembled in the lecture room, when the presents from the Christmas tree were distributed.

GRACE CHURCH

Is hung with evergreens, which set off its marble arches with fine effect. The Rev. Henry C. Potter, D.D., will officiate at 11 o'clock, and the choir, consisting of Mrs. Bodstedt, soprano, Mrs. Rachan, alto, George Simpson, tenor, and Mr. Wiebusch, basso, under the direction of Mr. S. P. Warren, organist, will perform the following music:

Venite, Messenthal; Gloria Patri, Messenthal; Te Deum, S. P. Warren; Jubilate, Dexter; Kyrie Eleison and Gloria, Mozart; Christmas hymn and Gloria, Mozart; Anthem, Berge.

CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION.

The pillars in the body of this fine church are tastefully festooned, while from the roof also hang several festoons of the same description. The pulpit, the reading desk, the organ loft, the font, and the galleries, looked really handsome. An army of turkeys, escorted by another army of chickens, with tongues, hams, and other edibles in abundance, performed duty at a grand festival given last evening to the children of the Sunday and Mission schools. Santa Claus arrived after supper, and distributed dolls, books, confectionery, and other nice things, from a large Christmas tree, eight feet high, and proportionably round; so the little ones at least had a fine time. Appropriate services were held previous to the supper.

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH.

At St. George's Church, Stuyvesant square, the Rev. Dr. S. H. Tyng will preach. The choir will sing, among other appropriate selections, the air and chorus from the "Messiah," "Thou that tellest," Elliot's Te Deum in F, and the appropriate canticles for Christmas Day. Service will begin at 11 o'clock A. M. Mr. W. F. Williams will preside at the organ.

Services will be held in many other Episcopal and Catholic churches to-day.

UNITARIAN CHURCHES.

Services will be held to-day at the Church of the Messiah, corner of Park avenue and Thirty-fourth street. The Rev. Dr. Osgood will preach. Services will also be held at All Soul's Church, corner of Fourth avenue and Twentieth street, at which the Rev. Dr. Bellows will preach.

Christmas Eve at Trinity and Other Churches.

The observance of Christmas week in the Churches began yesterday afternoon. At old Trinity about two hundred Sabbath School children were made glad by the distribution among them of all kinds of presents, and the Church was crowded with visitors to witness the sight. Shortly after 3 o'clock services were commenced, and the Rev. Dr. Ogilby delivered a beautiful address to the children. The folding doors of the vestibule were then thrown open, disclosing an immense Christmas tree, lit up with jets of gas, and heavily laden with toys of all description. The children passed around the tables, and each one received three gifts, which were distributed according to the merits of the scholars. This pleasant and happy occasion closed with the singing of the "Gloria in Excelsis." The following chimes and carols were performed on the bells of Trinity Church yesterday, beginning at 2½ o'clock P. M.:

1. Ringing the Changes on Eight Bells; 2. See the Morning Star is Dawning; 3. The Christmas Tree; Glory be to God Most High; 4. Hark, a Chant of Heavenly Music; 5. Christ was Born on Christmas Day.

On Christmas Day Mr. Agliffe will ring the following programme, beginning at 10½ o'clock A. M.:

1. Ringing the Changes on Eight Bells; 2. The Children of the Temple; 3. Watchman, Tell us of the Night; 4. Proclamation; 5. Come ye Children, Trim the Christmas Tree; 6. Christ was Born on Christmas Day.

GRACE CHAPEL YESTERDAY.

The Christmas festival of the Sunday School of Grace Chapel took place yesterday afternoon, and consisted of religious exercises, carols, &c. A large Christmas tree filled with gifts stood in the chancel, and presented a fine appearance. Addresses were made by a number of gentlemen present, and the following presents were given: To Bishop Potter a travelling case; to the Rev. Mr. Delafield, Rector of the Chapel, a dressing case from the teachers, and one of Rogers's Statistics from the pupils; and a book to Superintendent Routh. The Chapel was very beautifully trimmed by the ladies of the congregation. Under the rectorship of Mr. Delafield the school has increased so much that from 300 it now has 26 to nearly 400 pupils, and is now in a flourishing condition. A number of gifts were distributed to the children, who seemed to greatly enjoy the entertainment.

Yesterday 250 children connected with St. Bartholomew's parish school, were furnished with turkeys and groceries to take home to their parents, who can also enjoy a good Christmas dinner with them. The sidewalk was lined with the little ones.

OTHER CELEBRATIONS.

The Sabbath school children of Trinity M. E. Church, Thirty-fourth street near Eighth avenue, had a very pleasant time last evening. The exercises consisted of singing, short addresses, and distribution of Christmas presents by the venerable Santa Claus.

At the Inebriate Asylum, on Wards Island, a grand concert was given last night, in which the inmates were the performers, which was followed by a musical extravaganza entitled "The Excise Law."

TO-DAY.

there will be a general suspension of business. The Custom House will be open from 9 to 10 o'clock, for the entrance and clearance of vessels. No other business will be transacted. The Post Office will be open until 10 A. M. The Sub-Treasury, banks, City Hall, courts, and other public institutions will be closed.

Christmas Day in Brooklyn.

The preparations for the observance of the Christmas festivities in Brooklyn have been made on the most extensive scale. At noon the public schools were closed, and will remain closed until the 4th of January, 1869. The Protestant Episcopal and Catholic churches have been profusely decorated with evergreens—all of them indicating the usual good taste observed in the performance of the duties pertaining to decorative art. Elaborate programmes of music have been arranged for the services this forenoon, and everything seems to have been done with a view to a thorough and worthy celebration of the great advent. Sunday scholars, at their various schools, will gather round the Christmas trees laden with the sacred gifts of Santa Claus, and they will rejoice in the receipt of the good things dropped from those trees. Ample amusements have been arranged for the evening.

Prospect Park, Brooklyn.

The Commissioners of the Brooklyn Park have made special arrangements for skating to-day. The pond has been ploughed over the whole surface, and the ice is in the best possible condition. The railroad companies (the Flatbush avenue and the Coney Island routes) have arranged for running their cars at frequent intervals up to a late hour at night, so that all may be accommodated.

Real Estate.

Christmas has placed an estoppel on real estate transactions for the present. No sales were made yesterday by any of our brokers, and it is likely that very little business, if any, will be done in the real estate market until after the holidays.

The Extension of Park Place.

At noon yesterday there was a third meeting of the Aldermen's Committee on Street Openings for the purpose of hearing the objections of the property owners affected by the extension of Park place, by widening Robinson street from College place to West street. Mr. John M. Bowers said he appeared as counsel for the parties opposed to the extension, and he desired to present a list of 71 persons, all property owners and tenants upon the line of this proposed improvement. These parties were all opposed to the measure, every one of them. Mr. John H. Glover said if Robinson street were widened it would at least be well to wait until the grand avenue, which Mr. A. R. Lawrence said at the last meeting was likely to be formed by this proposed extension, to cut across the city, was first contemplated.

Mr. S. B. Chittenden said he was not opposed to any improvement which might be made, but he had signed a petition opposed to this measure. This seemed to be a case where a majority of the property owners were opposed to the measure. If this measure were adopted, it would injure considerable property of which he was an owner. The enormous taxes which result from such improvements as this cannot be borne much longer. If the property owners could be induced to petition for it, he would go with them. He had been told that this was a question of money—that whoever had the biggest purse would win. He trampled this assertion under foot. He had spoken generally, and had laid down principles which he believed to be good. If this was a "job," then there would be no use in saying more about it; he believed it was no job, but thought the Committee would do what was right in the matter.

Thos. J. Monroe said he was the owner of one-third of the fee simple of the northwest corner of Washington and Robinson streets; he was opposed to this measure, and hoped that it would be stopped; two assessments had already been made for the Chambers street and Church street extensions, and these had been of no benefit whatever to business in these localities. He doubted that the present measure was to be one of public benefit; it would be a public injury; business, at least, would seek in time its natural outlet, northward in the city, not southward. This extra amount of taxation would soon produce a revolution among the taxpayers. If this taxation continued, the taxes and burdens upon taxpayers could not be paid. The property owners in the southern portion of the city had no representation in the Common Council to-day, but he believed that the Committee would act fairly and impartially in this matter. After remarks by Moses H. Grinnell and a large number of other persons on the subject, the Committee adjourned.

YOUNG RAVENS.

From the London Telegraph.

Yesterday, we enjoyed the remarkable experience of dining with the "Young Ravens." The scene was a large, low room in Great Queen street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, the time mid-day, "for small and early" was the word as regards the guests of this amazing dinner party and the hour. Punctual to the stroke of 1, flights from the London ravenries might be seen directing their course to the feast provided for them. Five hundred of the raggedest and hungriest boys and girls in St. Giles and Bloomsbury had been bidden by the Refuge Society to the weekly banquet, which is given during the winter by this excellent association. They came from all quarters out of the various gathering places in long strings—just as ravens might. No need to ask what was in the wind—beef and potatoes and white bread were in the wind, as any one could tell by their ravenous eyes and open beaks. There were he-ravens and she-ravens, all of tender years, but most tremendous appetites—appetites which would not allow them to walk to the glorious rendezvous. As they neared the spot they kept breaking into quick trots, not to be repressed by those in charge; and mingling with the flight the observing eye was borne forward into the premises of the Refuge Society. Passing, with the sharpest swarm, through workshops and schoolrooms, the said observing eye came upon the large low room where boards were spread with five hundred tin plates and earthenware mugs; and down upon these in a cawing cloud, the small London birds settled—the boys on one side of the room, the girls on the other. Up and down the middle were immense block-tin pans and dishes, trenchers of colossal size, piled with huge slices of bread and cans of water. Going into the large room was a kitchen, where monstrous masses of roast beef, mountains of mealy potatoes, and bakers' shops full of loaves awaited distribution. On the arrival of the birds the cooks and the assistants went to work with carving knives, and very soon reduced the roast beef to thousands of slices, the mealy potatoes were shot out into the block-tin pans by hundreds, the dripping was poured over them, the loves were cut into four, and the tables up and down the room were cleared with the smoking provisions. This done, a dozen assistants hoisted the plates up to the dozen and carried them back with a rosalie of dishes, beef, five or six potatoes and a quarter of a loaf. Salt in plates stood ready upon all the boards, and water was poured into the mugs. Five hundred little ones were there who never see beef except in this way—dressed in anything, indeed, but festive garments, yet with such eyes, such watering mouths, such ready stomachs! You begin to understand what "hunger" means when there is all the year to practise appetite upon chance crusts.

While the beef and potatoes were upon the central tables, every eye was fixed upon those delicious food, and when the distribution was made, every eye was fixed upon the plate pertaining to it. The rule is to wait till all are helped and grace is sung. The rule is very proper, but painful hard to keep. The rule is a law of the land, were most restrained; they selected the smoking viands demurely, and coquetted with their bread a little. The boys clattered and cawed in their stomachic anxiety, and surreptitious licks of the fingers were freely indulged in. One ragged lad, with lean face and bright, dazzling eyes, made a false start, but was "brought up to the post" again by his immediate neighbors. Another keeping "on the windy side o' the law," might be seen salting his slices delicately, and turning them over and over in rapt animal ecstasy of contemplation which ought to be sacred. Others bu