The Sun.

It Shines for All.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1869.

Amusements To-day.

Academy of Music—Hermanos.
Booth's Theatre—Guy Mannering.
Bowery Theatre—Grand Holiday Week.
Bryant's Minstrels—Shoo Fly.
Fifth Avenue Theatre—The Duke's Motto.
Grand Opera House—Lagardi.
Niblo's Garden—Little Foxes.
New York Circus—New York Circus Troupe. Matinee.
Olympic Theatre—Under the Gaslight. Matinee.
San Francisco Minstrels, 585 Broadway.
The Tammany—Bud Dickey, &c.
Wallack's—Central Park.
Wood's Museum—The Blonde, Three Giants, &c. Matinee.

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Fifty copies to one address	80 00
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Gen. Grant and the Holidays.

Congress has adjourned, and Washington is quiet. The President, if he has any respect for public opinion, any solicitude for the fate of the confiding party which intrusted him with office, or any regard for his own reputation even, should embrace this quiet interregnum to reconstruct his Cabinet on a sound American basis.

It may be true that the Democracy, throughout Gen. GRANT's entire term, may be unable, because of the Republican ascendancy in the Senate, to sway legislation at the Federal Capital; but, unless he can carry on the government in accord with the demands of public opinion, he will leave his party on the 4th of March, 1873, a demoralized faction, without the slightest hold upon the confidence of the country, a broken and wrangling minority, the sport and prey of a consolidated and enthusiastic majority of the whole people. Gen. GRANT's popularity is waning, and the Republicans are growing weaker, day by day. All that can save him, and the party he assumes to lead, is a prompt and radical reorganization of his Cabinet.

To men not burdened with extraordinary cares, Christmas and New Year's are very properly a round of hilarities and festivities. But those who bear up the weight of a great empire ought to improve the calm and leisure hours which attend upon this season of relaxation from ordinary toil and perplexity, for a solemn survey of the duties they owe to their country. Let Gen. GRANT reconstruct his Cabinet!

Tammany Politicians and Public Officers.

I. He was seen at a French ball. He wore immense diamond studs, a huge blue necktie, a seal ring nearly as large as a door-knocker, and a frock coat with silken facings. A rolling-rimmed silk hat sat on his head. His moustache was well waxed. He parted his hair in the middle, carried the stump of a cigar between the fingers of his yellow kids, and spurted tobacco spittle from between his teeth. He was fat, and was leaderish in manner. He worked his head like a Chinese mandarin when he talked, and swore terribly at every breath. A crowd of roughs followed in his wake, and drank frequently at his expense. As the morning hours advanced he became riotous and ugly. He pitched a woman from a private box to the floor below, breaking her leg, and her screams were drowned by the boisterous applause of the roughs. He was a Tammany politician and a Sheriff's officer.

II. He was seen in a faro bank near the Fifth Avenue Hotel. He was seated behind a table covered with green baize, and was slipping the cards from a silver dealing box. Occasionally he received a hundred-dollar bank note from some one of the group about the table, who got in return a stack of blue ivory checks. He wore diamonds, and stripped the cards when it suited his convenience. He was ruining a half-dozen young clerks and brokers, and was violating the law. Yet he was a man of influence, and was a law-maker in the commercial metropolis of the Western Continent. He was a Tammany politician and a municipal officer.

III. He was seen within a horse car. He wore a fine overcoat of beaver cloth, and the inevitable yellow kids concealed his hands. He stared impudently at every poor girl who entered the car. He insulted every lady who casually glanced at him with his smirks and smiles. The conductor knew him, and, recognizing his power, did not kick him from the car. For he was a Tammany politician and a municipal officer.

IV. He was seen in Broadway, near Houston street, at 2 A.M. He stood among his fellows beneath a gaslight, and his diamond shone like a morning star. A country merchant passed with a travelling bag. The merchant was struck to the pavement, and while he was unconscious the party rifled his pockets. During the robbery the man with the diamond gazed upon the scene, and sweetly smiled. He promised the boys to see the Judge, and make it all "snug" if they were arrested. And he did it. For he was a Tammany politician and a municipal officer.

V. He was seen on the second floor of the City Hall. He sat in a costly chair fronting an expensive desk. He shouted "Ay" in stentorian tones, and voted away the people's money by the hundred thousands. Every loafer and every thief claimed him as an acquaintance. He filled the air with *sotto voce* oaths, and listened to mysterious whispers over an iron railing. He concocted schemes of public robbery, and enriched himself thereby without danger, for he was a Tammany politician and a municipal officer.

VI. He was seen upon the bench. He wore a flashing gem upon his bosom, and whispered in the ear of the Judge. That whisper saved a thief from State prison, or mayhap released a murderer. It was all-powerful, for it came from the lips of a Tammany politician and a municipal officer.

VII. He was seen among the ward canvassers on election night. Before he had gone from the room, the figures had been changed to suit his own purposes, and the will of the people had been nullified. An honest man had been wiped out of office, and a gambler had been thrown into his place. For it was the will of a Tammany politician and a municipal officer.

VIII. He was seen in the First Ward. His temples were heated with wine, and he was under the control of a bloodthirsty passion. He drew a revolver. The bystanders fled in terror. Mad with rum and uttering hideous oaths, he pursued a workingman, drove a bullet through his skull, and left him dead on the floor. He was arrested. A packed Coroner's jury investigated the murder, and rendered a verdict of partially justifiable manslaughter in the third degree. He was released on a small bail. For he was a Tammany politician and a Sheriff's officer.

Enforcing the Laws.

It is affirmed in the Cincinnati *Commercial* that the Tenure of Office act is regarded as a dead letter by some among the members of Gen. GRANT's Cabinet. According to that journal, hundreds of officeholders were suspended during the recent vacation of Congress, but not a single reason for such suspension has been communicated to the Senate by the President, and the Senate has acted upon nominations to fill vacancies caused by such suspension in the same manner it has acted upon vacancies which have occurred from death, resignation, or other like cause.

The law prescribing the qualifications of officers of the Internal Revenue Bureau is likewise disregarded and treated as a dead letter by the President and his subordinates; but no notice is taken of the fact in Congress or elsewhere except in the columns of the independent press. The statute requires that every Assessor shall be a resident of the district in which he discharges his functions. When Chief Justice CHASE was Secretary of the Treasury, the provisions of this statute were rigorously enforced; but Gen. GRANT regards the law with contempt. His old crony AUGUSTUS FORD is Assessor of the Eighth District in this city, but has his residence in Brooklyn. His friends have assured us that he thus violates the law by special permission from Gen. GRANT, but we cannot think this is so. Such permission would be an act of direct usurpation on the part of the President. If his conscience is dull, he may ignore the law, as in the case of the Tenure of Office act, mentioned by the Cincinnati *Commercial;* he may even connive at its violation, as in appointing his friend FORD, and in allowing him to act as Assessor of the Eighth District without changing his residence; but we do not believe he would arrogate to himself the authority to give FORD express dispensation to continue to violate the law when FORD had himself called his attention to the requirements of the statute. Would it not be well for Congress to examine into these transactions? Gen. GRANT has not only sworn to execute the laws, but he has repeatedly proclaimed it as his special and peculiar design to see to it that they were thoroughly executed. The last words of his message were to this effect. "On my part," said he, "I promise a rigid adherence to the laws and their strict enforcement." Professions are always easier than practice, and Gen. GRANT seems to form no exception to the rule.

The Stock Exchange—Important Decision.

We publish in another column an interesting and somewhat elaborate opinion by Mr. Justice BARNARD, sustaining and continuing an injunction against the Stock Exchange, which had been granted by Judge CARDOZO.

It appears that the Exchange deals quite largely, not only in stocks, but also in justice, or at least in arbitrations, selling its decisions at fifteen dollars apiece, to be paid by the losing party. The Exchange sets up both legislative and judicial powers; and if all its pretensions were to be acquiesced in, it might be said that we already have the capital in this city without the formality of its removal from Albany.

Judge BARNARD waives the consideration of the right of the Stock Exchange to determine controversies exclusively between its members; but he does not see how it can stick its talons into a man and tear him to pieces—or devour the leaf of which he owns a half—merely because he happens to be a partner of some member of the Exchange. The bar will recognize the soundness of the law, and the community the common sense of this decision.

The Drawback Frauds.

It is a good thing for criminals to have friends, especially when those friends are intimate friends of the men intrusted by law with the duty of bringing them to punishment. Or, failing this advantage, it is well to have an accomplice who possesses it, and, by hanging on to his skirts when he is rescued, get pulled out of the scrape with him. It is in this way, it would seem, that not only SAMUEL T. BLATCHFORD, the Custom House drawback swindler, is going to escape punishment, but three of his associates, KORN, REISENBERGER, and WILSON, are likewise going to escape, leaving only two, CALDWELL and WHIMSTER, for justice to deal with.

The particular device resorted to in this case to deceive the public will probably be, according to present indications, accepting the four men selected for exculpation as witnesses on behalf of the Government against the other two. They were recently in Canada giving their testimony in the extradition proceedings against CALDWELL, who appears to be, unfortunately for him, the victim required to appease public indignation; and it is hardly probable they would have done this without the promise of immunity to themselves. Whether WHIMSTER, the sixth of the gang, will also be included in the amnesty extended to BLATCHFORD and his friends, is not yet decided; but he, it is said, is very anxious to be allowed to come in. If he succeeds, we shall have the remarkable spectacle of six men conspiring together to defraud the Government of $250,000 and upward, and five of them escaping by being accepted as State's evidence to convict the sixth. Precisely who is responsible for this defeat of justice, it is hard to say. Perhaps an investigation by Congress might throw light upon the subject, and it would be very satisfactory to the public to have one set on foot.

It looks as though the use of lead pipes for conveying water to and about dwelling houses would have sooner or later to be given up. Lead is one of the most deadly of mineral poisons, and enough of it is often dissolved by water running through pipes made of it, or standing in tanks lined with it, to produce serious mischief when the water thus contaminated is taken into the system. In the late supposed poisoning case of Mr. GALLEY, a chemical investigation showed a quantity of lead in the stomach of the deceased, probably derived from drinking Croton water, sufficient to cause death. It is true that with the great majority of Croton water drinkers a fatal result of this kind does not follow; but the possibility of it ought to induce house-builders to put in, as far as practicable, pipes of iron, or of lead lined with tin, instead of pure lead pipes.

In St. Petersburg the practice of making New Year's calls is very rigidly followed, but there is a way in which one may avoid it, and at the same time hold his position in society. He has only to give five or ten roubles to some recognized public charity, and have the donation acknowledged in the papers on New Year's morning. He may then stay at home at his ease, and his friends will take no offence. Every New Year's day the St. Petersburg papers contain two or three columns of the names of persons who have thus exempted themselves from the demands of society. Those who hold receptions check off their acquaintances on these lists, and everybody is satisfied. The ladies are saved the trouble of receiving calls, and the gentlemen that of making them. If the half million readers of THE SUN will adopt this custom on the coming New Year's, they will secure a handsome donation to the city charities, avoid many a headache on the next morning, save an expenditure of much money for wines and other refreshments, and a large outlay for carriage hire and new coats. It costs many people from twenty to fifty dollars to make New Year's calls, and here is a way whereby an exemption may be bought for five. THE SUN will acknowledge on January 1 all donations of five dollars or upward for any recognized charitable institution, with the names of the donors and the announcement that they are excused from making New Year's calls.

Unitarians, it is known, differ greatly among themselves on almost all points of religious belief; but to many people it will be a surprise to learn how diametrically some of them are opposed to each other on the very important subject of the nature of the Saviour. For instance, the Rev. Mr. HERWERTH, Dr. OSGOOD's successor in the Church of the Messiah in this city, says, in a recently published communication on the observance of Christmas:

"The Unitarians believe so fully in the providential mission and the divine character and authority of Christ, that they would be strangely recreant to their own faith were they to ignore this pivotal day. Though they believe that Christ was not God, and base their belief on the reiterated assertions of the Saviour himself, they yet regard him as a final authority in all religious matters, as a being sent by the Father on a special mission, and as one to whom they are indebted for what makes this life beautiful, and opens up the glories of immortality."

To this the Rev. JOHN W. CHADWICK, minister of the Second Unitarian Church in Brooklyn, replies as follows:

"There is one word in this statement and only one, that needs correction, and that is the word 'The' with which it begins. Put in place of 'The' write 'Some,' and the statement will be perfectly true; but in its present form it is very far from being so. For it implies a uniformity of belief among Unitarians concerning the person of Jesus which does not exist. Unitarians are only agreed in this matter in a negative way. Some regard Jesus as a divine being; as to *what* he was, I am fully persuaded that very few of them 'regard him as a final authority in all religious matters;' that a large majority of them regard the response of their own reason, conscience, and faith to his and all other revelations as the 'final authority.' "

Both these reverend gentlemen are men of mark and influence, and no doubt each represents a large number of followers.

The city of New Orleans is not prospering as well as its friends might wish. A correspondent writes us that trade is very quiet, money scarce, and many business houses unoccupied. Merchants who have been in business for twenty and thirty years *are talking* of winding up their affairs and seeking a better place for their operations. The great Southern steamship monopolist, CHARLES MORGAN, is, however, said to be coining money very fast, making as much as $96,000 per week clear of all expenses. He charges more than twice as much freight on merchandise from New Orleans to the Texas ports as is charged upon merchandise from New York to the same ports. From New Orleans to Galveston he charges $18 for passage, which is three times as much as is charged from New York to Boston, which are the same distance apart. Business men complain that his enormous charges are driving away the Texas trade to St. Louis, Louisville, New York, and other places.

The cotton crop of Texas this year will be not much less than 300,000 bales. Immigration is pouring into the State. The Jackson (Miss.) *Clarion* of the 16th inst. says:

"An immense tide of travel is passing along all the routes to Texas from the Southern Atlantic States. The accessions to her population of movers in search of cheap lands and good range' will be immense the present season. This migratory movement has become quite a mania with many, and we have often been pained to hear of families breaking away from their old homes to better their condition in the West."

The Washita *Telegraph* of the 13th says:

"Every day or two we notice upon our streets trains of emigrant wagons going westward. The emigrants come mainly from Alabama and Georgia, and are bound for the growing State of Texas, soon to be an empire of itself."

Immigrants from Europe to Texas were estimated formerly at $1,000 a head, and the number this year is estimated at 150,000. This will make the income of the State this year $150,000,000 from immigration alone. No place in the world is more interested in the settlement, development, and prosperity of Texas than New York city, the trade of which with that State will increase if properly fostered by our merchant princes.

Most politicians, one would suppose, know the origin of the term "gerrymandering." Yet we find Gov. ASHLEY of Montana Territory, in a recent message, writing about "jerrymandering," with an initial j instead of a g, thus entirely misrepresenting the derivation of the word. Some sixty years or more ago, ELBRIDGE GERRY, the grandfather of our distinguished fellow-citizen and lawyer, ELBRIDGE T. GERRY, Esq.—counsel for THE SUN in JOHN RUSSELL YOUNG's libel suit, and for DANIEL MCFARLAND in his approaching trial for murder—was the leader of the old Democratic party in Massachusetts. To perpetuate the power of the party in the State, Mr. GERRY and his associates in the Legislature rearranged and divided the State into districts, so as to insure as far as possible Democratic majorities in the election districts, and in so doing had little respect to the symmetry of the outlines of the districts, or natural geographical boundaries. A colored map, showing these new districts, was hung on the wall of Mr. GERRY's office, and at a distance a portion of the state accidentally presented the image of a sprawling lizard. One day a staunch Federalist friend came in, and espying this map, exclaimed, "Why, what sort of an animal is that there?" "Oh, that is a salamander," said Mr. GERRY, good-humoredly. "A salamander!" replied his friend, who in the meanwhile had examined the map more closely, and from his knowledge of local politics had seen what the effect of the redistricting would be; "you had better say a *Gerry*-mander." The witticism was repeated by Mr. GERRY, and thus it came to pass that "gerrymandering" (with the g hard) became a slang expression for the political device practised by Mr. GERRY and his friends.

Chinese Labor for the South.

Nearly 500 Chinese passed through St. Louis yesterday from California, *en route* to Texas, where they are going to work on the railroads. Two hundred and fifty more have reached Omaha, on their way to the same place.

THE DEMOCRACY IN AN UPROAR.

Curses, Loud and Deep, for Sweeny, Tweed, and the Blossom Club—The Aristocratic Champagne Democracy Selling Out their Ten-cent Whiskey Supporters.

The Tammany Democracy, since their Board of Supervisors gave them the cold shoulder, and appointed Radicals to the Clerkships of five District Courts, have become fearfully demoralized and rebellious. They threaten to oust poor Sweeny from the party. They accuse him of being the originator of this favoritism to their partisans. Some faint notion of their wrathy state of mind may be formed when it is said that the little Indians of the party, who are generally pretty well primed with rum and whiskey, have done nothing else since last Monday than imbibe the poisonous stuff by way of drowning their political woes. Had they failed to do this, it is not improbable that the Tammany machine might have been broken to pieces. But the case is bad enough as it is.

Hundreds of these sorcheads were gathered yesterday in the spacious lobbies of the new Court House, within sight of Mr. Sweeny's office. Their wicked little eyes, half concealed by the brims of their hats, levelled scowling glances at the passing figures of the leaders of the party, who in vain tried to conciliate them by "promising." New York politicians are always ready to make promises which they never intend to keep. A great throng of these worthies lounged around one of the iron pillars. Their jaws contained enormous quids of Solace tobacco, and their shooting of tobacco juice at the marble floor was fearful. One of them was an ex-Councilman, another was an Inspector of Lamps, and the third was a candidate for the Clerkship of Judge Fowler's Court.

"Well, Pul, that's a nice way of treating us, isn't it?" said the Inspector. "It's a nice thing for the Democrats in the Board to do. Why, they might just as well turn us over head and foot to the Radicals. But by G—d, its all Sweeny's fault. The d——t, he is always at these tricks, and we'll never see an end of them until we see an end of him."

"That's so, Dick," returned the candidate. "He is at the bottom of the whole thing. Tweedy ain't to blame at all. I'be blessed if I shall ever spend my money on election again. I voted thirty times last election day, and was arrested once, but bailed out. I came near going to State Prison for it too, and this is all we get for our trouble.

"Don't Sweeny belong to the Blossoms?" asked the ex-Councilman.

"Of course he does," replied the candidate; "and so do Bleakley and Oliver, and the whole crew of them Radicals. All the aristocratic Democrats belong to that snobbish Club. They drink only champagne; whiskey at ten cents a glass ain't good enough for them."

"I tell you," put in the Inspector, "that this thing can't last. We ain't going to be let them fellers snub us in that way. I am a Democrat, and won't stand it. The Ring is bad enough as it is. They don't allow anybody in it but their sons, cousins-in-law, nephews, brothers, and friends. These parlor Democrats must take a back seat. We won't stand this snubbing business any longer. Why, I met Sweeny on Broadway yesterday, and do you know that he was ashamed to give me a nod?"

We did not care to listen to the rest of this interesting conversation. The feeling against the faithless Democratic wirepullers was very bitter throughout the day, and the indications are that the Board must rescind its action, if it would save itself.

BLEEDING THE TAXPAYERS.

Westchester Commissions Surpassing the Best Thing ever done in New York—Seven Dollars on every Hundred of Taxable Property—Enjoining the Sangrados.

Messrs. James B. Hunt, Albert Ayres, Samuel M. Purdy, and James Kirby form a Special Commission, appointed by the Legislature, for laying out and improving the road called Madison avenue, which runs through the town of West Farms, in Westchester county. They have laid out with such extraordinary zeal that their expenditures have contributed $87,150 to the tax levy of $225,000, that is now to be drawn from the purses of the people of West Farms and Fordham. $225,000 is more than 7 per cent. of the property thus taxed, and no wonder that the people are loud in their complaints.

This surpasses all that has yet been done even in New York and Brooklyn.

The Madison avenue Commission has contributed its quota to the tax levy, and a number of others that are sucking the blood of property owners have contributed most of the rest.

Mr. Patrick Hadon resolved to try the merits of the case, and caused an injunction to be issued on Monday, restraining the Board of Supervisors of Westchester County and Frederick Groty, Supervisor of West Farms, from incorporating the levy in the tax warrant; the Madison avenue Commission from continuing their work; and Richard D. Hamilton, the West Farms Receiver of Taxes, from proceeding with his collections.

The injunction will come up Jan. 7 at the Special Term in Brooklyn. A *certiorari* has also been issued by Mr. John K. Hackett, which will come up next February. The injunction alleges that this special commission is illegal and unconstitutional because the town auditors of West Farms were not consulted, as by law required, regarding the estimate of the value of the property appropriated in laying out the road, nor presented beforehand with a statement of expenses for the town to vote upon. It further says that James Kirby, one of the commission, Frederick Groty, Supervisor of West Farms, Ralph Anderton, and several other parties have property along Madison avenue, the value of which they seek to enhance at the public expense.

The people of West Farms complain that if they are thus ruinously assessed they would like to see some accompanying improvements; but there is neither gas in the town nor pavement on its streets. Should this injunction save a successful termination, a similar course will be pursued with all the rest of these infamous commissions.

WHO OWNS THE STOCKS?

Is it a Case of Conscience, or is it a Colossal Joke?—Mysterious Return of Seemingly Valuable Certificates—Have they any Value?

On Tuesday night a about 11 o'clock, as Captain T. C. Davis was making ready to leave his station for home, a small, ragged, dirty personage shuffled up to the desk, and hastily depositing a package with the remark, "That's for Captain Davis," hastened away as fast as his legs could carry him. With his mind filled with the business of the day, the Captain paid little attention to the waif, and for some time the package lay untouched on the desk. At length, however, he took it up mechanically, and began to unroll it. Paper after paper was taken off, until at last he came to a package of certificates, neatly done up. Carefully wrapping them in paper, he placed the precious documents under lock and key until yesterday morning, when the papers were laid before the Superintendent of Police. That official immediately despatched a messenger to the Park Bank with two of the certificates, and the messenger returned late in the afternoon with the intelligence that they were genuine. Why so much care about what seemingly has no greater value than so much waste paper remains to be seen. In the mean time we append a list of the certificates, so that those who may have lost them may recover them, should they possibly possess any value:

Certificate No. 41, for 1,000 shares of the Orange County Land Company, of Orange county, New York, par value, $2.50 each share. Dated at John C. Morgan on the 6th of December, 1867. Thomas W. Reed, secretary, Lemuel Sisson, President. Countersigned John C. Morgan.

Certificate No. 253, of the Star Metal Company, of New York, E. F. Childs, Vice President, and Acting Secretary, and E. T. Wright, President. Issued June 13, 1868, to Maximiliana Josephina Chase, for 43 shares of the par value of $100 per share; countersigned Maximiliana J. Chase; witness, C. W. Varney, seal and 25 cent revenue stamp.

One certificate each of 8 and 19 shares, of a par value of $100, a share of the Washington Marine Insurance Company, of New York, dated Nov. 19, 1864, and the other, Dec. 29, 1861, pented to F. J. Chase; A. McCutny, Secretary; G. Henry Roos, President; not countersigned; revenue stamp, &c.

Three certificates of the Central Improvement and Coal Company issued to F. Z. Lawrence. The certificates call for 100 shares each, of a par value of $50 each share; issued May 1, 1866; Jos. H. Dunn, Treasurer; Lewis Anderson, President; countersigned Edward Z. Lawrence.

A certificate of the Riverside Improvement Company, issued to Frank J. Chase, for 10 shares of the par value of $100 each. L. W. Murray, Secretary. Emory E. Childs, President. Issued April 9, 1869.

Two certificates of the Great Western Coal and Transportation Company mortgage bonds for $500, bearing interest at 7 per cent per annum, payable at the Park Bank of New York. J. H. Johnson, Treasurer. These bonds are issued in favor of Joseph Irving; bond No. 252 has all of the coupons cut off, while No 2? has seven yet remaining.

AMUSEMENTS.

Guy Mannering at Booths.

The well-known dramatic version of "Guy Mannering" was brought out on Monday evening at Booth's Theatre, and is now being performed there. Its sketches of Scotch manners are always interesting, and the picturesque gipsy element and the dash of melodrama that belongs to it always win the attention, even the enthusiasm of an audience. It is evidently the confirmed rule at this theatre to put every play carefully upon the stage, and nothing has been neglected to give this one all the effect that fine scenic effect can lend to it. The old English music of Sir Henry Bishop, the "Chaunch and Crow," and other excellent glees were tolerably well sung. In fact, the musical part of Guy Mannering is a most important one, and Mr. Mollenhauer has done everything for it that the materials he has at hand permitted.

Mrs. Waller makes a very effective *Meg Merrilies*, not departing essentially from the traditions in relation to that role established by Miss Cushman. The other parts we did not find in very strong hands. The play will be given every evening this week, and ills very pleasantly if not very powerfully the short interval that will elapse until the production of Hamlet.

SECRETARY FISH'S CUBAN POLICY.

An Attempt to Drag an American from an American Vessel—The Stars and Stripes No Protection—No Consul in Havana and No American Man-of-War in Port—Outrageous Conduct of Spanish Officers.

The shameless protection which the Administration has extended to the minions of Spanish tyranny has emboldened them at length to a daring outrage upon an American citizen. The steamer Eagle, which arrived in New York harbor a day or two ago, had on board Mr. William Donaldson, a resident of Williamsburgh, and a naval officer well known to the community. This gentleman was deck officer of the steamship Washington when she was wrecked, and by his coolness and courage preserved the lives of the passengers, for which act he was presented by merchants of this city with a large silver medal appropriately inscribed. About a year ago he was seized with epilepsy, which unfitted him for employment, and lately he was ordered to Cuba by his physician to recruit his health. He remained there only three weeks, and took passage on the Eagle for New York. When he went on deck in the port of Havana his passport was examined by the Spanish officials, who were posted at the gangway to prevent any Cuban's escape from the island. His papers being all right he was permitted to come on deck. The engineer of the vessel had served with him on the Rahee, and asked him, jauntingly, "What news on shore, Donaldson?"

"Bad," said he, "the volunteers and the Spaniards are outraging, killing, and robbing everywhere."

Then he recounted how a Sergeant of volunteers had outraged the woman of the house where he lodged, and that the hellish act had been repeated by the Corporal. Then the woman had been taken out and shot, in company with ten Cubans.

"Liar, dog, American hound," shouted in foaming chorus two Spanish passengers; and the officials chimed in, "Arrest him; shoot him; take him to Morro Castle."

Donaldson stood firm, said it was the truth, and he knew it personally. But the Spaniards beckoned him into the saloon, and there six of them went deliberately through his pockets, took his papers (private letters), his pocketbook, containing money in gold and greenbacks, and his passport. They then ordered him to follow them, but he darted into his stateroom and defied them, said he was under the flag of his country, and would yield them no obedience. He appealed to the first mate, but he was scared at the guns of Morro Castle, and the second mate would not interfere after his superior had refused. There was an American passenger on board, but he was a consumptive buying tobacco, and his soul was in his boots, or somewhere not available. The captain and the purser were on shore. The Spanish passengers were clamorous for an arrest, and breathed vengeance against the American dog, but the officials dared not take the man by force from his cabin.

When Capt. Green returned and was informed of the outrage, he left immediately for the Consul's office; but the Consul was absent in Matanzas. The captain could appeal to no one. There was no war ship in the harbor, though six or seven lay at Key West, ninety miles away—some of Porter's peculiar strategy. So, leaving a formal protest with the Spanish bullies, he sailed for New York. Just before departing, the officials threw Mr. Donaldson's papers, &c., tied up in a handkerchief, at the vessel, in such a manner that it dropped into the sea and was lost.

Mr. Donaldson will place his statement in the hands of an able lawyer, and have it brought before Congress as speedily as possible. The insolent trucking of the Government has brought matters to a pretty pass, when the American flag cannot protect an inoffensive American citizen from Spanish outrage on an American vessel.

CUBA AND SPANISH ATTORNEY TILES.

Bad Position of Secretary Fish.

From the Journal of Commerce.

A gentleman who makes it his business to keep well posted on the sly moves of Spanish diplomacy in this country, and of whose early and accurate information our correspondent has often availed himself, is the authority for the assertion that Mr. Sidney Webster (son-in-law of Secretary Fish) received, some months ago, a retaining fee of $14,000 from Mr. Roberts, Spanish Minister at Washington, and since that date $36,000 more, and that these large sums were paid to Mr. Webster "in view of his relationship and probable influence with the Secretary." Mr. Webster has been, it is well known, acting for some time as attorney for Spain—his legal manœuvres to procure the release of the gunboats being his principal feats in that line. For he it from us to disparage Mr. Webster's abilities as a lawyer; but they are not of such a recognized exalted standard in this community as to make a retaining fee of $14,000 look otherwise than disproportionately large, and the subsequent payment of $36,000 just a trifle more than equally good legal attainments and services are rated at in this city.

Even supposing the statement to be true, it will be hard to resist the impression that the Spanish Government paid to Mr. Webster this $75,000, hoping and believing (we do not say agreeing with him) that his influence would be exerted on Secretary Fish to prevent the recognition of Cuban belligerency. If the Spanish Government did have this impression, they are dissatisfied with the result—although it may not have been achieved through the precise instrumentality supposed. It is unfortunate for the reputation of Mr. Fish that these alleged facts should have come to light; and, if they cannot be contradicted, they will have a damaging effect upon him in the present excited state of public opinion. He may fold his arms and affect to despise it. He may heave benevolent sighs of pity for any man who would suppose for a moment that he (Mr. Fish) could be swayed in his State policies a millionth part of an inch by family or personal considerations. But the American people are too familiar, from long experience, with nepotism and the partialities of friendship, as evinced in the distribution of government offices, contracts and favors, to believe that Mr. Fish is more exempt from such influences than other men in high public stations.

But one other occurrence is needed to make the humiliation of this country complete, and that, according to the report from Washington, is in a fair way to be supplied. England, it is said, will soon recognize the Cuban republic, or at least accord to her belligerent rights. Should England do this, it would be a righteous rebuke for the culpable indifference of our government to the spectacle of an oppressed people, near our coast, struggling for freedom. It would exhibit a profound and deserved contempt for the precedent which Mr. Fish has been at such pains to establish, and would vindicate anew the inalienable right of every nation to be the proper judge of the circumstances under which and the time when she shall see fit to recognize new governments on the face of the earth. The benefit to England from such a recognition will be very great; for it will tend to prevent the voluntary annexation of Cuba to this country—measure which may be said, however, to have been killed already by Mr. Fish's policy. With England as a protector and mentor, the Cubans cannot be expected to incline toward annexation to this country. So that the result of the diplomatic course at Washington will probably be that we shall see the long expected acquisition of Cuba and all our influence over the island, and that the Alabama claims will gradually dizzle down to nothing under the same timid and inexpert management.

A RICH SCENE AT A WEDDING.

The Bridegroom Gets Drunk, and the Best Man Marries the Bride.

From the Port Hope Guardian.

A couple residing in the rural districts, not far from town, were engaged to be married, and were "called" three times in one of the town churches. On the day fixed for the celebration of the ceremony which was to "make this twain one flesh," the happy couple came to town arrayed in all the glory of new store clothes, bringing with them a brother of the bridegroom, who was to officiate as "best man," and who, the result proved, was fully entitled to that character.

Leaving the blushing damsel in charge of his brother, the intended husband adjourned to a barroom to get "something hot" to cheer his spirit under the trying ordeal through which he was to pass. Here he met some friends, and amid the congratulations with which he was overwhelmed, portook of more than was necessary for the purpose of elevating his courage to the proper point, and soon became oblivious to all sublunary matters, wedding parties, prospective domestic bliss, and all. After waiting a reasonable time for his appearance, his affianced and the rest of the party grew uneasy, and finally an expedition was organized to go in search of him. They discovered him in the tavern in a comatose condition, and reported that fact in the proper quarter.

The bride bore up bravely under this trial, declaring that she didn't care a cent, he was a good-for-nothing drunken wretch, and she was glad to get clear of him. Moreover, she was not going to be humbugged that way out of getting a husband; she came to town to be married, and married she was determined to be—to the first man that would take her. Rather than see the girl disappointed about a trifle like this, the brother, who came to do the "best man" business, volunteered to be her victim himself. The bargain was soon made, and off he started for a license, returning in a short time, when they were married, and started for home, leaving the other individual to enjoy his little spree as best he could. The affair has created no little talk and much merriment among those acquainted with the facts, and the intended husband is now having a rough time among the wags.

Executions in Havana.

HAVANA, Dec. 28.—José Crespiles and José Rubo, convicted of an attempt to incite a rebellion among the Catalan volunteers, were sentenced and garroted on Christmas Day.

Theatrical Items.

Fechter, the French actor, sailed from Southampton on the 23d for this country. He will appear at Niblo's early in January in the "Duke's Motto."

During the year now drawing to a close one hundred and thirty-four members of the theatrical profession in this country and Europe have died. Among them were Giulia Grisi, Mrs. Vernon, Isaac C. Pray, Sol. Smith, and Tommy Peel.

The rush to Mouquin's vaults for New Year's wines, since THE SUN began to advise its friends of his whereabouts, has been unprecedented. Not only are holiday folk laying in supplies, but many others are purchasing a family stock. White wines and clarets of excellent quality $1.25 by single gallon $1 for ten gallons or more. These wines are of excellent quality, for present use, but quadruple in value with age. Cognacs, champagnes, cordials and liquors of the best, at low rates. Depot, 81 and 83 Nassau street. Delivery free.—Adv.

A DEAF MUTE ELOPEMENT.

Thomas Pollock and Arabella Martin, Late of Pittsburgh.

From the Pittsburgh Despatch.

Our readers will perceive in another column of the *Dispatch* an advertisement announcing the elopement of two mutes from Allegheny City, named respectively Thos. Pollock and Arabella Martin. The particulars of this rather strange love affair, if such it can be called, have been related to us as follows by the father of the girl, who is now endeavoring to gain some clue of her whereabouts: Less than a fortnight since, Pollock called for the first time at Mr. Martin's residence, on Western avenue, representing that he was travelling agent for a commercial establishment in Detroit, and that he was desirous of selling certain goods by sample. In the course of his visit he chanced to meet Miss Martin, who was aged about 26 years, and had been dumb from infancy. Both being versed in the peculiar language of persons in their situation, they were not slow in forming an acquaintance, and numerous communications passed between them. Finally Pollock left, but promised to return. On the occasion of his next call he had further conversation with Miss Martin, and the result of this intimacy was that he proposed for her hand in marriage, representing, meanwhile, that his business was lucrative, and that he possessed ample means to provide for her and make her happy. The father of the girl did not, however, favor the suit, and so the amorous Michigan man felt himself compelled to cease his visits. Thus ended the first act of the drama.

On Sunday week last, Miss Martin left her home for the purpose of attending Sabbath school, which was announced to be held for the benefit of the deaf mutes on Franklin street, Pittsburgh. She has been accustomed to attend it before, and the circumstance did not excite any particular attention on the part of her parents. When night came, however, and she not having returned, they naturally grew anxious about her. Inquiries were made, but no information of the missing one was obtained until next day, when Mr. Martin was informed that Pollock had met her at the Sabbath school, and that she was last seen in his company. Since then Mr. Martin, though diligent in his search, has not heard a word from the missing couple. He says he feels certain they have gone together, but is in doubt whether the girl went with Pollock voluntarily, or was taken away by force, as the latter measure could be easily accomplished, owing to her inability to make any outcry.

The Detroit officials have been communicated with on the subject, and our local detectives are informed of the case. At present the members of Mr. Martin's family are much distressed by it.

Does Mr. Frothingham Favor Free Love?

To the Editor of The Sun.

SIR: To Mr. Frothingham's friends, and to the larger circle of his admirers and occasional hearers, the article in THE SUN of Tuesday, commenting on his sermon of last Sunday, was so manifest a perversion of truth that it could only excite surprise or indignation. But as the name of a man who is before the public as a religious teacher, prominent on the unpopular, because ultra liberal side, is known to many who have very indefinite ideas with regard to his views and character, this makes it worth while to state that there was not one sentence in Mr. Frothingham's discourse on Sunday, which justified the statement with regard to it in THE SUN. This sermon was a very comprehensive, high toned, and noble word, spoken on the subject of marriage, which, so far from being lawless in its tendency, held up the highest and purest laws as binding on all. He spoke of the beautiful doctrine of elective affinities, as the true ground on which marriage should rest, because it and it only makes the relation between man and woman personal and not sexual. He dwelt on the obligation, where a sad mistake has been made in the marriage union, to patient and long-suffering, and to gather together all that one has of character and of the power of self-sacrifice in the effort to be faithful to the end to the solemn vows taken; to accept suffering as discipline, where it is hopeless to look for any other result. He also said that just in proportion as the people were noble and good they would do this, but that we all know that many people are *not* noble and good, and that practically there would be many cases where, because of the low grade of character of the parties concerned, separation was inevitable and less disastrous than retaining together. The only sentence Mr. Frothingham uttered which the most ingenious sophist could pervert to a want of strictness in this matter, was when he said that he did not think it right to take the ground that a second marriage was never under any circumstances admissible after separation and during the life of a former husband or wife, but that this was a point where very deliberate consideration and the greatest circumspection only could avoid the most disastrous