The Sun.
It Shines for All.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 1871.

Amusements To-day.

Academy of Music—The Holland Testimonial. Matinee.
Apollo Hall—Dr. Cerry's Diorama of Ireland.
Heath's Theatre—Love and Loyalty. Matinee.
Bryant's Opera House—724 st., between 6th and 7th ave.
Fifth Avenue Theatre—Saratoga. Matinee.
Grand Opera House—La Perichole. Matinee.
Lina Edwin's Theatre—Masepps. Matinee.
Niblo's Garden—The Black Crook. Matinee.
New York Circus—14th st., opp. Academy of Music. Matinee.
Olympic Theatre—Wee Willie Winkie. Matinee.
Stadt Theatre—Griseldis.
San Francisco Minstrels—585 Broadway.
Tony Pastor's Opera House—New Burlesque, &c. Matinee.
The Beach Pneumatic Tunnel—Open to Visitors.
Wallack's—Ours. Matinee.
Wood's Museum—Lydia Thompson Troupe. Matinee.

Incapacity in the Treasury.

The time being propitious, the Treasury Department was urged just one year ago to shift its six per cent. five-twenties into five per cent. ten-forties. Everybody understood just what a proposition of this sort meant, the two sorts of securities having long been familiar to the Stock Exchange and to the general public. The markets and the general circumstances were favorable to the operation. The plan was simple, the reasons for making the exchange obvious and impressive. The Government's option for the payment of the five-twenties was matured, or mostly so; the threat of paying them in greenbacks had been often made by patriotic politicians of the Democratic persuasion, and a demand for their taxation was a periodic diversion of provincial Democratic conventions. On the other hand, the ten-forties which it was proposed to offer in exchange were to run ten years at least, accompanied by a specific promise this time that they should be paid in gold, and that they should be positively and peremptorily free from the claims of hungry tax-gatherers.

The last session opened upon an easy money market on both sides of the Atlantic, and the opportunity to shift several hundred millions of the six per cents into five per cents was thus manifest to the financial mind. Why then was not this result accomplished without any hesitation or delay?

The answer must be given. It was because the Secretary of the Treasury did not grasp the situation. He did not see, as he might and as he ought, that this was just what the case admitted of, neither more nor less; and he did not come promptly down to Congress and ask that body to lose no time in giving him the authority to make the exchange, or to negotiate a new loan on this basis. He took up the subject, to be sure, but he merely turned it up to the light and dawdled over it. He hesitated and listened to pretenders, who turned out to be as foolish as they were selfish. They raised a fog of expectation which altogether beclouded the Secretary's vision. His imagination dwelt upon the vain hopes held up by his deluded and deluding self-constituted counsellors, that the whole world was eager to lend us money at four and a half, and even four per cent. It was because Mr. BOUTWELL thus allowed himself to be deceived with views and hopes having no solid foundation, and because he dreamed of impossible results among the money-changers, that nothing was done. Congress, not being either enlightened or pressed by the Treasury Department, pottered over the subject all winter, debating all sorts of propositions, and, as in all its debates on finance, making darkness visible. While it debated, Mr. BOUTWELL patiently waited on Providence for some miraculous interposition in behalf of the Treasury, not knowing whether to believe the ignoramuses who kept preaching to him that it was just as easy to borrow money at four per cent. as at five or six. Accordingly Congress, unurged to do the only practical thing possible, did nothing. When July came, and the time had well nigh passed, a squint-eyed measure was finally put through. It was clumsy, partial, inadequate, and unpopular. It fell to the ground still-born, a bungling abortion.

The result of it all is, that the country is now paying six per cent. interest on six or eight hundred million dollars which might have been funded a year ago at five per cent., the Treasury thereby saving the difference of six to eight million dollars a year in interest money. And now, at the end of a full year, when the markets of the world are glied with fresh loans of great European powers, either engaged in war or apprehending it, rendering money comparatively scarce and raising the rate of interest, our Treasury Department is just getting through Congress the measure which it ought to have had passed a year ago. That is to say, Mr. BOUTWELL is empowered to change five hundred million six per cents into five per cents. Having thrown away a good chance, great alacrity is now shown in embracing a bad one. But we give Congress credit for one thing. Where it was gushing last year in the expression of its financial wisdom, it is this year silent—dumb as the grave. Members can now see that they then talked the country out of six or eight millions; and seeing it, they at least have the grace to say nothing. They let the new proposition pass without a word.

Whatever shall finally come of it, one thing at least is certain: the bill comes a year too late. How soon it can be rendered available is not easy to be foreseen. The only thing that is sure is what we have already lost and what we are still losing by delay. Nobody can tell when the money market will be in such a condition that the projected negotiations can be carried out. To know this, we must await future developments.

Meantime it is useful to contemplate the consequences of want of judgment, energy, and prescience in the administration of affairs. The Treasury Department has known nothing, and wanted to know nothing apparently, about our finances, except to see how much money could be wrung from the country to pile up in the Treasury, and pay debts not due these twelve or fifteen years. Oppressive taxes upon the sources of national wealth—taxes which only inexorable national demands can ever justify—have been tenaciously clung to, and are now advocated at the Treasury, in order that a debt not due may be put in the way of rapid diminution. The plan pursued is a naked grab upon the pockets of capital and industry, which find it oppressive to pay, in order that the collections thus made may be distributed to those who do not want to receive the money. The last reserves upon which the urgent exigencies of war could lay its hand are held to be the legitimate resources of the Government to raise a surplus revenue in time of peace for wholly unnecessary objects.

If the Treasury Department had any consistent scheme for bettering the financial position—if, for example, it were accumulating a surplus for the purpose of aiding the restoration of specie payments—the country might be disposed to bear the exactions upon it with some degree of patience. It might be disposed even to excuse the extraordinary lack of sagacity upon which we have commented. But there is no feature of the Treasury management which can be regarded with approval or complacency. It is alike censurable for what it does and for what it does not do. We are paying debts that nobody wants paid, we are wasting reserves that ought to be held and applied to the restoration of specie payments, and we are paying enormous sums of interest money annually which we ought not to be paying. We should be glad to find reason to regard the management of the Treasury as an exception to the general dead level of incapacity that has marked other branches of the Administration; but with all our good will, we find ourselves unable to do so.

Death's Thoroughfares.

We borrow the above heading from the last report made by the Board of Health upon the sanitary condition of the city. The facts which we are bringing to light in regard to the tenement-house population of New York are so terrible that we are glad to reinforce our statements by quotations from public official documents. Of these thoroughfares of death which run between the towering blocks of tenement houses, the Board of Health declares that "here death apparently holds continued carnival, with poverty, wretchedness, and filth as aids." They also inform the public that their survey of the tenement houses of the city "has revealed a rate of crowding in tenement dwellings that has probably not been equalled in any other great city in the world."

If our readers would like to inspect a few samples of these specimen dwellings situated on death's thoroughfares, they can call at those mentioned below, the descriptions of which we copy from the Report of the Board of Health:

"THE TENEMENTS AT 79 BAXTER STREET.—The Sanitary Inspectors' survey shows twenty-five families, comprising 112 persons, living upon the premises. The tenements are piled five stories high, and the rear is built back to back against another pile of rear tenements upon Mulberry street lots, and which are entered from that street.

"THE TENEMENTS AT 102 BAYARD STREET.—These tenements abut against the south side of the rear portion of those at 79 Baxter. The house is five stories high; the rear is built close against the side of the rear of 79 Baxter, thereby rendering through-and-through ventilation impossible. This pile of tenements contains a population of 102 persons; there have been six deaths upon the premises during the year, which is equal to a death-rate of 59 persons in 1,000.

"The tenements here mentioned, apart from being badly planned, are so constructed, with narrow *cul-de-sac* courts, and with rears built compactly back to back, that on all sides, excepting the street front, they are shut off from sunlight and external ventilation."

The report further states that, as a consequence of this overcrowding and wretchedness, the very instinct of domesticity, of privacy, of homelikeness is crushed out, and that "to children born and reared under such influences it is inevitable death. Moral elevation or an improved social standing can rarely come to any family so environed and so housed."

Such is the condition in which hundreds of thousands of the inhabitants of New York are kept by A. T. STEWART and his confederates, who oppose every practicable scheme for giving them speedy and cheap access to the suburban districts. It is alleged as an excuse for Mr. STEWART that he wants to compel the working people of New York to settle upon his property at Hempstead Plains; but we submit that such a scheme, instead of an excuse for his conduct, is only an aggravation of his offence. Let us have steam railroads running at cheap rates from the lower part of the city into the suburbs, and then let the working people select their places of residence to suit themselves. Why should they be compelled to buy homes of a grasping millionaire at Hempstead Plains, when they desire to go elsewhere? Must they consent to be racked with ague and devoured by mosquitoes in order that he may be made richer?

Usurpation.

The Washington *Patriot* maintains that the protection which President GRANT has extended to Dominica against Hayti is just as flagrant a usurpation of the war power as if he had undertaken to establish a protectorate over Ireland against England, the principle not being at all affected by the fact that Hayti is too weak to resent the outrage. The fact that the treaty which could alone furnish the shadow of a justification for the President's action was made void through rejection by the Senate increases the enormity of the wrong.

The cool deliberation with which President GRANT has utterly ignored the requirements of the laws where they did not suit him, and substituted his own will as being superior to all legislation, is at once startling and suggestive, as it is certainly without precedent in the history of this country. The fact that in several instances of this kind—as in ordering the census retaken in Philadelphia and in this city, and in the appointment of men to offices which they were legally disqualified to hold—the objects to be attained by his extraordinary proceedings were trivial in their nature, does not lessen the gravity of the offence. That the Chief Executive of the nation chooses to disregard the law in his official acts when it conflicts with his own inclinations can be but poorly excused by the plea that he had no strong reasons for his unlawful course.

Our columns announced yesterday the sudden death of Mr. HENRY BURDEN of Troy, at the age of nearly eighty years. He was born in Dumblane, Scotland, in 1791, and came to the United States in 1819. He was one of the most useful men of his generation. To extraordinary capacities of mind he united a strong character and a generous heart. His genius as an inventor was admirable. We owe to him the machine for making wrought-iron spikes, that for making the hook-headed spikes used in fastening railroad bars, and that for making horse-shoes. Long before the construction of the Great Eastern steamship, he conceived and advocated the plan of building steam vessels for ocean navigation of such large size and such draught of water that they could not be affected by the movement of the waves. With such ships he was confident that the passage across the Atlantic might be made by the most sensitive person without seasickness; while by the application to them of suitable propelling power, he expected to cross in about half the time required by the swiftest steamers now in existence. While occupied with these inventions and ideas, Mr. BURDEN established at Troy iron works of great extent, which are still conducted by two of his sons. For some years past he has exercised no control over the business, but has lived upon a beautiful estate near the works, passing his time in the society of his friends and devoting a considerable portion of his income to works of benevolence and humanity. His death was as peaceful as his life was honored. It occurred about 10 o'clock on Thursday morning. His daughter, Mrs. PROUDFIT, found him lying upon the sofa in his room. Supposing him to be asleep, she kissed him, saying, "Are you asleep, father?" and discovered that he was dead. He leaves two sons, JAMES and TOWNSEND BURDEN, and three daughters, Mrs. Gen. McDOWELL, Mrs. PROUDFIT, and Mrs. WADSWORTH of Buffalo. It is said that by his will his large property is divided equally among his children. Gen. McDOWELL is one of the trustees of the estate.

The *False-Reporting Tribune* accuses Senator CREAMER of introducing a bill into the Legislature "requiring railway companies to pass him and his fellow-legislators free," and adds that the Senator has reached the lowest depth of meanness. Senator CREAMER has introduced no such bill. His bill simply requires the railway companies to furnish the messengers and other attachés of the Legislature with passes. "The lowest depth of meanness" has been reached by the Republican Legislatures of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. In those States the law makes it imperative upon the railway companies to give the members of the Legislature free passes.

The Hon. RICHARD YATES, who has just been left out of the Senate by the Legislature of Illinois, proposes to amend the Constitution so as to make foreign-born citizens eligible to the office of President of the United States. Mr. YATES always was a man of liberal views.

A serious charge of misrepresentation is made by the London *Spectator* against the Prussian authorities. A short time ago the French authorities issued a proclamation, offering to every French officer who escapes from prison and rejoins the army 750 francs indemnity to give him a new outfit, but peremptorily refusing a sous to any officer who had taken any sort of engagement to the Germans. This order, it is asserted, was metamorphosed into the following calumny at Versailles, whence it was telegraphed by Mr. REUTER's agent, and published in all the London papers: "The German authorities declare that according to an official French document which has fallen into their hands, and which emanates from the sixth section of the fifth division of the War Department, the French Government, by a decree dated the 10th of November, offers a premium of 750 francs to be paid to each of the French officers who have escaped from German captivity in breach of their parole,"—the fact being that it was peremptorily refused to any officer who had given a parole. The same despatch, in the same words, is reported from Berlin, in a special telegram to the London *Times*. This is a matter in which the Prussian honor is gravely involved, and which should be explained, if possible, without delay.

We have received a letter from Newtown, Pa., informing us that disreputable publications are sent there from Washington under the frank of CALEB N. TAYLOR, member of Congress from that district. This is another argument for the abolition of the franking privilege.

Is it possible for the *False-Reporting Tribune* to get anything right? On Thursday morning it announced that Senator GENET had introduced a bill appropriating $200,000 for the finishing of the new County Court House. Mr. GENET introduced no such bill. The *Improved Times*, probably misled by the *False-Reporting Tribune's* announcement, gave vent to an editorial article raking the Court House Commissioners fore and aft for their corruption. A correct report of the proceedings of the Legislature was printed in THE SUN. Truth is cheaper at two cents than falsehood at four.

Chief Justice CHASE remains in the city and, as we are very glad to learn, continues to improve in health. In pleasant weather he walks out, and when the temperature will not admit of this, he takes exercise in a carriage. Though considerably reduced in flesh, and showing marks of illness otherwise, his mind was never clearer or his conversation more interesting. He receives his friends freely, and is benefited by the pleasant excitement of their society. The public will be happy to be informed that he confidently looks forward to a return to the active duties of his office at no very distant day; and if his strength continues to increase as it has done for some time past, he will doubtless be able to fulfil this expectation. The Chief Justice is one of our great men, and citizens of all parties take a deep interest in his welfare, and earnestly desire his early restoration to activity.

The much-talked-of inventory of the late THADDEUS STEVENS's estate has at last been published. The amount of personal property included in it foots up the sum of $48,616.25. There are no Pacific Railroad bonds comprised in the inventory. The executors say that there is an unsettled account between the surviving partners of the firm of STEVENS & AHL and the estate of Mr. STEVENS, which has been in controversy since the death of Mr. STEVENS, but they are unable to state any amount which will or may be recovered from this source.

The great snow storm at the West on Saturday and Sunday last was marked by some peculiar and uncommon features. It began among the Rocky Mountains on the 10th, reached Omaha, Duluth, and St. Paul on the 11th, and struck Chicago, in the form of a drizzly rain, on the 13th. The time occupied by it in traversing the distance from Omaha to Chicago was 39 hours, being at the rate of about 10 miles an hour. In the afternoon of the 15th (Friday) the rain at Chicago gave way to snow, which fell rapidly till Sunday afternoon. The snow was soft and damp, and was blown by the strong wind into great drifts, though it was not more than 22 inches deep on a level. The telegraph wires suffered much from breakage, and all the railroads leading to and from Chicago were more or less obstructed.

A Chicago clergyman, according to the *Times* of that city, in the course of some instruction which he gave to his hearers on the subject of hell, informed them among other things that the mental anguish of that place—and he took particular pains to assure his hearers that hell is "a place"—is so tremendous and awful that the damned, as a matter of recreation, would fall back upon the tortures of the instruments of punishment and the scorching flames which are also to be found there. Whatever may be thought of the reverend gentleman's belief about hell, it is certain that his ideas of recreation are, to say the least, peculiar.

A Lover's Desperation.

On Sunday evening last, Alfred Hewlett, of Cold Spring Hill, went into the woods and with a penknife attempted suicide, cutting his neck in several places. He lies in a very low condition. It is said that the young woman to whom he had been paying his addresses came to New York on a visit, and while here got married.

THE METHODIST MUDDLE.

AN ARRANGEMENT TO SECURE A SECRET INVESTIGATION.

More Wrangling in Secret Session—A Protest from the Prosecution—The Basis of Adjournment Agreed Upon—The Parties Kiss and Make Up, and then Disagree.

The investigation of the Lanahan case before the Methodist Book Committee still drags along, and though always approximating a settlement, constantly disappoints all expectation in that direction. Yesterday was spent by the tribunal in secret session, at the adjournment of which it was announced that everything had been satisfactorily arranged for a discontinuance of the proceedings, and that certain papers, embodying the basis of adjustment, were ready to be given to the press. But before the reporters could get at these documents a misunderstanding developed itself as to their construction, and they were withdrawn to be further considered to-day.

At the hour of adjournment on Friday evening, a basis of settlement was determined upon as printed in yesterdays SUN. This basis was in the form of a preamble and resolution, substantially as follows:

Whereas, The Bishops, in their paper submitted to this committee, have given us their interpretation of the discipline of the Methodist Church in its application to cases like the one before us; and

Whereas, Ecclesiastical law is exceedingly meagre in its provisions for such cases; and

Whereas, The Bishops as well as the Committee have expressed their full confidence in the soundness and safety of the Book Concern; and

Whereas, But a brief interval exists to the meeting of the General Conference; therefore,

Resolved, That all questions relating to the management of the Book Concern be referred to a Commission, to be composed of three members chosen from the Book Committee, with Bishop Scott at its head, and Judges Fancher and Reynolds, to which three experts shall be added; the said Commission to investigate all the affairs of the Concern, and report to the Committee to be elected at the General Conference in 1872.

This basis was finally agreed to by the following named members: The Rev. Messrs. Woodruff, Blades, Bingham, Van Cleve, Maltby, Rawlins, Bannister, Brooks, and Moore—9.

The following named opposed the basis: The Rev. Messrs. Kennedy, Rothweiler, Vernon, Erwin, Pike, and Slicer—6.

Subsequently Mr. Slicer changed his vote to the affirmative, so that the basis was adopted by 10 to 5.

This was the standing of the matter at the opening of yesterday's session.

Yesterday morning the Committee charged with the prosecution of the case submitted the following document:

PROTEST OF THE ACCUSERS.

NEW YORK, Jan. 20, 1871.

To the Book Committee of the M. E. Church now in Session.

RESPECTED BRETHREN IN CHRIST:

Whereas, Certain charges have been preferred to your body against the Rev. John Lanahan, D. D., Assistant Book Agent at New York; and

Whereas, You have entertained the said charges, and thereon have suspended the said Lanahan from the said office, and have called him to trial under the same, in accordance with the Book of Discipline; and

Whereas, The said Lanahan has responded to the said charges before your body; and

Whereas, The testimony and proceedings of a trial have been regularly entered upon before your body; and

Therefore, We, the undersigned respectfully protest to your body against any arrest of proceedings, or any conclusion or disposition of the case that shall stop short of a prosecution of the said trial to a final finding and verdict in the case.

H. F. PEASE, Chairman.
GEO. L. TAYLOR, Secretary.
J. R. EDWARDS.
H. D. RALTH.
JOHN H. OCKERSHAUSEN.

Committee of the signers of the charges for the conduct of the prosecution.

This document was read and ordered placed on file; but subsequently, at the suggestion of certain members of the Committee that it was very exacting and admitted of

NO COMPROMISE,

the prosecutors withdrew it and substituted another, embodying the following points:

1. The attack on the Methodist Book Concern was made and is repeated by the Rev. John Lanahan, D. D.

2. The gist of the complaint against him was for that cause.

3. When the cause of complaint ceases or is withdrawn, the complainants can withdraw the charges, and not before.

4. If the Assistant Agent retracts the assertions of fraud and corruption before the Committee, the complainants it would not be behind him or any one else in conciliatory measures.

5. If this be not done, the complainants are ready and desire forthwith to proceed with the investigation.

On the receipt of the protest, a motion was made that the action of the preceding evening be reconsidered.

Pending this motion, a resolution was introduced reiterating the definition, by the General Conference of 1832, of the term

ASSISTANT AGENT,

which is one "under the direction of the Agent."

At this point the Rev. Dr. Carlton, the principal Agent, appeared before the Committee, when the proposed action was read to him, and also the above resolution, and he was asked whether such action would be satisfactory to him.

In response, Dr. Carlton addressed the Committee at great length, consuming nearly two hours in his remarks. He alluded to his first election in 1832, since which time he has been reflected every four years by each succeeding General Conference by acclamation, excepting at the last General Conference, when his former associate received some votes against him. He spoke of the financial condition of the Concern when he entered it eighteen years ago, when he found the treasury empty and the heavy judgment just then obtained against it by the Southern Church hanging over it. He alluded to the compromise effected of that judgment, and the heavy debt it created beyond the cash payments made, for which money had to be borrowed. He then exhibited statements showing the almost

MARVELLOUS GROWTH

and success of the institution up to the beginning of these troubles, during the twelve years immediately preceding which its profits had aggregated nearly a million of dollars, and its assets amounted to $1,859,271.31. The Doctor then showed that during the year 1868, before these charges and imputations of fraud and corruption were brought against the Concern, its profits were $131,950.23. In 1869, the year Dr. Lanahan's allegations obtained currency, these profits fell off very nearly one-half, amounting to only $68,719.04. They had recovered a little during the past year since the report of the Committee setting at rest the charges of fraud and corruption was made public. He also showed a similarly marked effect upon the previously unquestioned credit of the Concern, and then argued that no rate it would take but twenty blue years to undo all that had been accomplished in the eighteen years of service, and plunge the Concern back into

HOPELESS BANKRUPTCY.

In view of these facts, he applied to the Committee to tell him how he could continue to work on in harmony, with the cause of the trouble and embarrassment he had pointed out.

These remarks of the principal agent had a marked effect upon the Committee, and the question of reconsideration was discussed with much earnestness until the midday recess.

In the afternoon the subject was again taken up, when it was conceded that unless the parties would consent to an amicable arrangement, the investigation must go on. With a view to bringing about harmony, Bishop Janes undertook to talk with Dr. Lanahan, and Bishop Simpson with Dr. Carlton. Sub-committees were also appointed to confer with the counsel on either side, and a supreme

EFFORT FOR PEACE

was made. Later in the day these efforts seemed to have been successful, and a joint session of the Bishops, the Committee, the accusers and their counsel, and Dr. Carlton, and the accused and his counsel was held. At this meeting the matter was again talked over in a friendly spirit, when Mr. Fancher, for the prosecution, rose and said that the complainants would not stand in the way of an adjustment if the charges of fraud and corruption against the Book Concern were withdrawn. That was the chief cause of the prosecution of Dr. Lanahan, and the complainants would be satisfied if he made a retraction.

Judge Reynolds, for Dr. Lanahan, replied that the accused could not withdraw so long as the bill of charges of the complainants remained. His charges were made

IN ANSWER TO THAT BILL.

Mr. Fancher—We will not stand on a mere technicality; I withdraw the charges of the complainants.

Judge Reynolds—I withdraw the reply of the defendant.

At this point Dr. Carlton was asked whether he was satisfied, and he replied that he was.

The motion to reconsider the basis of settlement was then withdrawn, and the resolution defining the position of the Assistant Agent was adopted.

The meeting then spontaneously broke out in singing the Doxology, which was followed by prayer.

The Bishops then submitted a paper congratulating the Committee on its disposition of the case and expressing their full concurrence in the action taken.

During the day the Rev. F. A. Blades of Detroit offered a resolution that when a conclusion was reached the Secretary be directed to give the reporters of the press an opportunity to copy the papers that should be adopted. This resolution was adopted. When the meeting adjourned the Secretary, the Rev. Mr. Bingham, directed his assistant to read to the reporters these papers and let them take copies. While preparing to do this a question arose among some of the counsel for the prosecution as to the understanding of

DR. LANAHAN'S RETRACTION.

The Bishops and the members of the Committee who were appealed to all agreed in the understanding that he retracted all charges of fraud and corruption against the Book Concern. Some of the prosecuting Committee thought this was not clear, and that the records only showed that he had withdrawn his formal answer to the bill of charges. In consequence of this misunderstanding, the papers were withheld from the reporters until the matter is settled. It will be brought up again this morning, when, if Dr. Lanahan's withdrawal shall be found to have been anything short of a full and complete retraction of his charges against the Concern, the prosecution will insist on going on with the investigation.

The Board stands adjourned to meet in executive session at 9½ o'clock this morning.

Save your dollars; put them where they will *grow* and be ever ready for the day of need. Money deposited now in the Mutual Benefit Savings Bank (this Building), will draw interest from Feb. 1—*Adv.*

A BOY HANGED IN VERMONT.

How Near the State Came to Abolishing Capital Punishment—Intense Excitement in Windsor—Yesterday's Gallows Scene. Correspondence of The Sun.

WINDSOR, Vt., Jan. 20.—On the evening of Oct. 8, 1863, Henry Welcome, a youth only 19 years of age, murdered a defenceless old man in Hinesburg. The victim was Mr. Perry Russell, a well-known and respected farmer, a member of the Methodist Church, owning a large property, and aged about 76 years. At about 8:30 on the evening named Mr. Russell and his wife, who had retired, were startled by a loud kicking at their door. Mr. Russell inquired, "Who's there?" and was answered, "Joe Busby; I want to come in." Deceived by the mention of a familiar name, the old man opened the door, and was instantly felled to the floor by a blow from a

HEAVY BARN-DOOR HINGE.

Mr. Russell's groans aroused his wife from bed, and she, hastening to the spot, saw the young assassin standing over her prostrate husband, and raining a shower of blows upon him with the murderous hinge.

Almost paralyzed with fear for her own safety, Mrs. Russell fled to the nearest neighbors, one hundred rods distant, and gave the alarm. The whole neighborhood was soon aroused. The murderer fled, and his victim was found lying on the floor where he first fell in a pool of blood, breathing heavily. He lingered in an unconscious state until 10 o'clock the next morning, when he died. At the *post mortem* examination nine scalp wounds, from one to three inches in length, and a deep cut, were found on the crown of his head.

After finishing his bloody work, the murderer ransacked the house for the money which he expected to find. He could discover nothing, however, except a small black trunk containing notes, deeds, and other valuable papers. This was afterward found in a field half a mile distant, the contents having been taken out and strewn around. Welcome expected to find

A LARGE SUM OF MONEY.

He knew that Mr. Russell, a short time previous to the murder, had in his possession some $5,000 in United States bonds, but the old gentleman had deposited his funds in the Burlington Bank a few days before he was struck down.

The pursuit of the assassin was actively begun on the day after the murder. The services of N. B. Flanagan, an experienced detective of Burlington, were secured, and a reward of $1,000 was offered for the arrest of the assassin. On the 5th of October, just two days after the murder, Welcome was arrested in Waterbury, Vt., whence he was taken to Burlington. On his way there he met

THE FUNERAL PROCESSION

of his victim, and displayed the most astonishing indifference and coolness. A preliminary examination resulted in his full committal on the charge of murder in the first degree, and in the following April he was tried and found guilty. On a technicality of law he was allowed to appeal to the Supreme Court, and pending the session of that tribunal he was remanded to the State Prison in this place. The Supreme Court confirmed the verdict of the jury, and Welcome was sentenced to solitary confinement for one year in the State Prison at Windsor, and then to be

HANGED BY THE NECK UNTIL DEAD.

Efforts for commutation of sentence to life imprisonment were made, and came near being successful. Last October the Legislature was petitioned on two grounds, viz.: The extreme youth of the prisoner, and the plea of insanity. The House of Representatives turned a willing ear to these petitions, even going so far as to allow counsel for the prisoner to plead before them as to a jury—a proceeding without precedent in any legislative body. A committee was also appointed to visit Welcome in prison; and the result was that two bills were passed, one to commute Welcome's sentence and the other to abolish capital punishment. Such summary action aroused the people of the whole State, and protests poured in from every quarter; the spirit and the press thundered against it; and when the bills came up in the Senate the members of that body, in accordance with the unmistakable voice of the people, rejected them by an overwhelming majority. People breathed freely once more when the efforts of a few false philanthropists to

OVERRIDE THE LAWS OF THE STATE,

which had hitherto been rigidly enforced, so signally failed. In consequence of this extraordinary effort to save one of the worst of villains from his just deserts, deep interest has been manifested in this case.

Henry Welcome, the murderer, is of French parentage. For some time after his arrest he maintained a cool indifference and apparent carelessness of the consequences of his diabolical act that showed an amount of depravity seldom found in one so young. Within the past few weeks, however, since his last hope for reprieve was crushed, he showed a marked change. He became calm and quiet, occupying his time mainly in reading the books furnished by the prison library. He also made

A FULL CONFESSION OF HIS GUILT.

Although he was in close confinement for a year, and took no exercise, his general health was excellent, and his appetite good. The prison chaplain visited him constantly for conversation and prayer, and as the end drew nigh the miserable young man became serious and penitent. Within a few weeks he was allowed to walk in charge of the chaplain in the corridors of the prison and in the yard. One day last week he was taken to be shown where his body was to lie, and the chaplain conducted him to the spot where are buried the transgressors of the law. On his way back to his cell he begged the privilege of standing a moment in the sunlight, because it was so cheering to him. He said he was resigned to his fate, and acknowledged the justice of his sentence. In a letter to his father and mother he expressed sorrow for his deed, and his hope for pardon and forgiveness.

A CAREER OF CRIME.

The prisoner was a tall and singularly handsome youth, with keen black eyes and white teeth. He had a slight stammering in his speech. His complexion yesterday was somewhat sallow from his long confinement. He was about five feet eight inches high, and weighed 135 pounds. In early life he worked upon a farm, and went to school until he was sixteen, and was considered a well-behaved boy. At that age, however, he visited Boston, and there became associated with a crowd of roughs, and rapidly fell in the scale of degradation. Situation after situation was forfeited by his misconduct, until at last he resorted to gambling, the place of his frequenter of the North street dance halls. All of this time he says he had in contemplation the fearful crime for which he has just suffered. He dreamed of it by night, and it so worked upon his feelings that he could not resist the temptation to carry his idea into effect. He repaired to Waterbury, and remained there a day or two, being

ARRESTED FOR HORSE-STEALING,

but was afterward discharged. Then he proceeded to Hinesburg, and, in conjunction with one Walsh, planned the details of the murder. Walsh was to have met him at Winooski Bridge, thirteen miles from Hinesburg, at 7:30 o'clock on the evening of the Sunday following the crime, and divide the plunder; but he was not there, and there is no trace of his whereabouts. Being asked the reason why he was so bold and open in his movements, he said: "Well, you see, I knew that the old lady couldn't identify me, and the best thing I could do was to check it out." The name of Joe Busby, he said, was familiar to Mr. and Mrs. Russell, and he thought that in case he succeeded in his purpose suspicion must fall upon the wrong man.

THE LAST INTERVIEW

between the mother, who is an excellent woman, and her erring son took place on Thursday of last week. The citizens of Hinesburg raised $30 to pay the expenses of herself and daughter to Windsor. The father was too much broken down by sorrow to accompany them. The interview was a scene to affect the stoutest heart and to draw tears from eyes unused to weeping. Mother and daughter clung to the doomed man and sobbed as if their hearts would break, and the eyes of Henry Welcome were moistened with the first tears he has shed during his long confinement. To-day, between 12 and 1 o'clock,

THE EXECUTION

took place in the prison yard. There were only a few spectators, and those were the officers of the prison, the physicians, the clergy, and representatives of the press. When the prisoner stepped from his cell he was apparently calm, but upon reaching the scaffold he gave way to an agonized feeling. He walked up the steps of the gallows, however, unassisted. The Rev. Mr. Cudworth, Baptist minister of Springfield, and the Rev. Franklin Butler, Orthodox, were at his side. Sheriff Surrey W. Stimpson, and Drs. E. G. Phelps, Ripley, Clark, and J. W. Styles stood on the platform.

After the reading of the death warrant, Welcome turned round to the assemblage and recited the history of the crime, warning other young men to beware of his course. He then prayed to God for forgiveness. The black cap was then pulled over his eyes and the Sheriff touched the spring, and with a heavy thud the body dangled in the air.

The fall was three feet, and as the rope stretched, the body came within a few inches of the floor. It hung there some minutes, when the physicians pronounced life extinct, and it was placed in a plain pine coffin for interment in the prison yard. Welcome has left a full confession of his guilt.

The Pastor of the "Little Church around the Corner."

The New York correspondent of the Boston *Journal*, speaking of the Rev. Dr. Houghton, says; "Except the laborers at Five Points, he is better acquainted with the sorrowing ones of New York than any other clergyman. A distinguished organist took to drink to such a degree that he was unfit for his position. When everybody cast him off, Dr. Houghton took him up and tried to save him. For several months he took care of him on Saturday nights, that he might be fit to play on Sunday and not become a beggar. A clergyman of very brilliant talents, of fine family connections, became intemperate, and was shunned and discarded by all. In his distress and disgrace he called on the benevolent clergyman, who took him in, furnished him with a comfortable room in the tower of his church, gave him a chance to reform, and held on to him to the last. Such a man would allow no human being to want for the consolation of religion while living, nor would he wound the feelings of relatives, however a man might die."

MAN AN IMPROVED APE.

The Last Result of Darwinism.

Mr. CHARLES ROBERT DARWIN, the eminent naturalist, and author of "The Origin of Species," has just published in England his last and greatest work, *The Descent of Man*, which the Appletons have in press, and will issue in a few days. The work, we understand, has created a profound sensation in England, where the first edition was sold in a day, and will undoubtedly, when it appears, be received here with equal interest.

Broadly expressed, Darwinism is the attempt to account for the present and past diversities of life on our globe by means of continuous development, without the intervention of special creative fiats at the origin of each distinct species. It is well known that in the hands of breeders useful peculiarities in animals are perpetuated by pairing those which show such peculiarities. Our present improved breeds of long-horned and short-horned cattle, race horses, merino sheep, and the countless varieties of pigeons, all developed from a single stock—the rock pigeon—demonstrate that these peculiarities may not only be perpetuated, but increased largely, if not indefinitely. This process is known as *selection*, and is used by man exclusively for his own benefit. Mr. Darwin extends this procedure to Nature, with an important change in its object. Man can only select visible characteristics; Nature, on the contrary, is continually scrutinizing the *whole* being, and as continually stamping with approval those variations which are useful to the organism. This principle works altogether by means of life and death—the latter being the penalty of a failure to meet successfully the circumstances in which a being is placed, be those circumstances physical or vital, enemies or forces—in a word, "the conditions of existence."

An illustration given by Prof. Huxley will serve to fix this in the mind: "In the woods of Florida there are many pigs, and very curiously, they are all black. Prof. Wyman, many years ago, asked some of the people why they had no white pigs, and was informed there was a root in the woods (called paint root), of which, if the *white* pigs eat, their hoofs cracked and they died, while it did not hurt the *black* pigs at all." This weeding out on the one side, and preservation on the other, is what is meant by *natural selection*.

In the introduction to his new work, "The Descent of Man," Mr. Darwin quotes, with evident satisfaction, the remark made by the eminent naturalist Carl Vogt in his address as President of the National Institution of Geneva, in 1869, that "nobody in Europe at least now ventured to maintain the doctrine of the independent creation of species"—a statement rather broader, we fancy, than the facts will warrant, though it is no doubt true that a large number of naturalists have accepted the theory of Darwinism, and admit that species are the modified descendants of other species. Mr. Darwin himself, however, says that those who accept his theory are mostly the younger race, and "of the older and honored chiefs in natural science, many unfortunately are still opposed to evolution in every form." He mentions as among the eminent naturalists who have adopted his views Wallace, Huxley, Lyell, and Lubbock in England, and in Germany, Buckner, Rolle, and Hackel. An Italian philosopher, Dr. Francesco, also maintains the same views in a work published in 1869, under the significant title of "Man, made in the Image of God, was also made in the Image of the Ape."

The following extracts, from advance sheets of Mr. Darwin's new book, will sufficiently indicate its scope and character:

As soon as some ancient member in the great series of the Primates came, owing to a change in its manner of procuring subsistence, or to a change in the conditions of its native country, to live somewhat less on trees and more on the ground, its manner of progression would have been modified; and in this case it would have had to become either more strictly quadrupedal or bipedal. Baboons frequent hilly and rocky districts, and only from necessity climb up high trees; and they have acquired almost the gait of a dog. Man alone has become a biped; and we can, I think, partly see how he has come to assume his erect attitude, which forms one of the most conspicuous differences between him and his nearest allies. Man could not have attained his present dominant position in the world without the use of his hands, which are so admirably adapted to act in obedience to his will. As Sir C. Bell insists, "the hand supplies all instruments, and by correspondence with the intellect gives him universal dominion." But the hands and arms could hardly have become perfect enough to have manufactured weapons, or to have hurled stones and spears with a true aim, as long as they were habitually used for locomotion and for supporting the whole weight of the body, or as long as they were especially well adapted, as previously remarked, for climbing trees. Such rough treatment would also have blunted the sense of touch, on which their delicate use largely depends. From these causes alone it would have been an advantage to man to have become a biped; but, for many actions, it is almost necessary that both arms and the whole upper part of the body should be free; and he must for this end stand firmly on his feet. As far as this great advantage, the feet have been rendered flat and the toes too peculiarly modified, though this has entailed the loss of the power of prehension. It accords with the principle of the division of physiological labor, which prevails throughout the animal kingdom, that, as the hands became perfected for prehension, the feet should have become perfected for support and locomotion. With some savages, however, the foot has not altogether lost its prehensile power, as shown by their manner of climbing trees and of using them in other ways.

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In regard to bodily size or strength, we do not know whether man is descended from some comparatively small species, like the chimpanzee, or from one as powerful as the gorilla; and, therefore, we cannot say whether man has become larger and stronger, or smaller and weaker, in comparison with his progenitors. We should, however, bear in mind that an animal possessing great size, strength, and ferocity, and which, like the gorilla, could defend itself from all enemies, would probably, though not necessarily, have failed to become social; and this would most effectually have checked the acquirement by man of his higher mental qualities, such as sympathy and the love of his fellow-creatures. Hence it might have been an immense advantage to man to have sprung from some comparatively weak creature.

The slight corporeal strength of man, his little speed, his want of natural weapons, &c., are more than counterbalanced, firstly by his intellectual powers