The Sun.

It Shines for All.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1871.

Amusements To-day.

Booth's Theatre—Richelieu.
Bryant's Opera House—23d st., between 6th and 7th ave.
Fifth Avenue Theatre—Sans-gêne.
Fourteenth Street Theatre—Richelieu.
Grand Opera House—La Perichole.
Lina Edwin's Theatre—Hunted Down.
Bible's Garden—The Black Crook.
New York Circus—14th st., opp. Academy of Music.
Olympic Theatre—Nicholas.
Stadt Theatre—Die Grille.
San Francisco Minstrels—585 Broadway.
Tony Pastor's Opera House—Female Minstrels, &c.
The Beach Pneumatic Tunnel—Open to Visitors.
Wallack's—A Morning Call. Woodcock's Little Game.
Wood's Museum—Monte Christo. Matinee.

Terms of The Sun.

DAILY, per year, to mail subscribers,	$6 00
SEMI-WEEKLY, per year,	2 00
Ten copies to one address,	18 00
Twenty copies to one address,	35 00
Fifty copies to one address,	80 00
WEEKLY, per year,	1 00
Twenty copies to one address,	17 00
Fifty copies to one address,	37 50

Additional copies, in Club packages, at Club rates. Payment invariably in advance.

ADVERTISING RATES.

ORDINARY ADVERTISING, per line,	40 cts.
Ten lines (14 words of less),	80 cts.
Three lines, 22 words or less,	$1 20
BUSINESS NOTICES, before Marriages and Deaths, per line,	75 cts.
SPECIAL NOTICES, after Marriage and Death, per line,	50 cts.
READING MATTER, with "ADV." after it, 1st page, per line,	$1 50
READING MATTER, with "ADV." after it, 3d or 4th page, per line,	1 50

LEADED ADVERTISEMENTS charged at the same rate as solid. Cuts and display type may be used in the Weekly and Semi-Weekly, with extra extra charge, at the option of the advertiser.
ADVERTISEMENTS IN WEEKLY, 50 cents per line.
ALL ADVERTISEMENTS charged per line of solid Agate space.
ADVERTISEMENTS IN SEMI-WEEKLY, 75 cents per line.

Managing the Cuban Revolution.

We published on Saturday a remarkable letter from Gen. RYAN. This gentleman is a plucky and enterprising cavalry officer, who, we believe, has rendered very good service in the Cuban revolution. He has now been absent from there for many months, but we have understood he has always intended to return.

Gen. RYAN is especially dissatisfied with the manner in which the business of sending arms and ammunition from this country to the Cubans has been conducted. This business has been, from the first, in the hands of a small number of Cubans in this city. The most prominent of these gentlemen is Mr. MIGUEL DE ALDAMA. Mr. ALDAMA has the reputation of having been a very wealthy man, but as a very large portion of his property consists of real estate in Cuba, which has been confiscated, the amount of his pecuniary sacrifices in the revolution must be reckoned by millions. During the last two years, as we happen to know, his gifts to the cause have been constant and liberal. It is not probable that any one but himself is aware exactly how great their aggregate has been, but we should suppose it would not fall much short of half a million. Other Cuban gentlemen have given in proportion to their means, but no other has been able to contribute so largely as Mr. ALDAMA.

Gen. RYAN complains that the expeditions sent out with arms to Cuba have not been successful, and that a large proportion of the supplies they carried have fallen into the hands of the Spaniards. The fault of these misfortunes he boldly charges upon Mr. ALDAMA and his associates; and he proposes that they shall retire from the active direction of the work. He would have some energetic Cuban put at the head of the financial department, and some American of ability at the head of the war department here; a war fund raised by throwing Cuban bonds upon the market and appointing responsible banking houses in the United States to sell them. In order to make this policy effectual, however, he is compelled to fall back upon Mr. ALDAMA. He calls upon that gentleman to give at once in cash either two hundred thousand dollars or five hundred thousand dollars to the Cuban war fund; and he promises that other Cubans will then raise the fund to a million. With this money he thinks that two thousand good soldiers well officered can be landed in Cuba by the first of July next; and if this is not done he thinks the cause may be considered as lost.

We have no doubt this letter of Gen. RYAN is well intended; but it is exceedingly injudicious, and will do harm instead of good. Its criticism upon the conduct of Mr. ALDAMA and his associates seems to us impertinent, not merely from the fact that these gentlemen have themselves paid most of the money expended for the cargoes of arms and ammunition which they have sent out; but also from the other fact that they have probably done the very best that was possible under the circumstances in which they were placed. They have had to contend not alone against a swarm of Spanish spies and meddlers, but against the unscrupulous exercise of the power of the American Government. Where executive interference alone was not quick enough to break down their operations they have been dragged into the courts and kept there for months. It has been of no avail that at last the charges against their enterprises have been set aside by judicial decisions; the delay has been fatal to them; and there is little hope that in this respect Gen. RYAN'S management would prove more successful than theirs has been.

It is in the nature of the case that a revolution like that in Cuba, made not only against a political despotism which has flourished for centuries, and against innumerable official monopolies, but also against slavery and the slave trade, existing in the most gigantic proportions and yielding the most enormous profits, should be opposed by every resource of ingenuity and every obstacle that money and power can apply. And upon the whole, instead of finding fault with the administration of the Cuban agents here, we are disposed to award them high praise, and to say that, considering the difficulties they have had to meet, they have been eminently successful; and certainly there is nothing in the plan which Gen. RYAN proposes which can lead us to believe that the new system he desires to have established would be any more prosperous than that which he condemns.

The strength of the Cuban revolution is in Cuba, and not here. It has shown an extraordinary vitality and a tenacity at which its friends as well as its enemies have a right to be astonished. No doubt it ought to have been ended long since, and so it would have been had the Administration at Washington and the dominant party in Congress really possessed those sympathies in favor of human liberty, or that hostility to slavery and the slave trade of which in times past they have made such boasts. There was no need of any active intervention on the part of the United States. All that was required was that we should recognize the fact that the Cubans were struggling for freedom and independence and should accord to them those belligerent rights which the public law of the world would have justified and which the history and professions of the United States made it our duty to accord. But this could not be done. By one means or another, Spain obtained the control of the Administration, and the Republican party in Congress had not energy enough to differ with its benighted President. The consequences have been the massacre of thousands of innocent people in Cuba, and the devastation of a vast extent of cultivated and fruitful country. But with all the perseverance of their race the Cubans still maintain the struggle, and the history of the other Spanish-American colonies shows that the hasty mind of Gen. RYAN misleads him widely when he supposes that it is likely to be abandoned. It took nine years' fighting for New Granada to gain her independence; the struggle of Chili lasted seven years; that in Venezuela eleven years; that in Mexico fourteen years. In Cuba it is not yet two years and a half since the standard of independence was raised; and while we desire as earnestly as any one can that the war should be brought to an early close by the victory of the Cubans, we do not propose to abandon it in despair if it is not finished at an early day. Meanwhile we have this advice for Gen. RYAN, and for all other friends of Cuban freedom: Let them coöperate together as much as possible, avoiding dissensions and public disputes, and making the best of everything that can in any manner advance the good cause.

Bancroft Davis—The Right Man in the Right Place.

It is semi-officially announced that the duties of Secretary to the United States Branch of the Joint High Commission will be performed, in part at least, by Mr. BANCROFT DAVIS, Assistant Secretary of State.

This must be pronounced a wise and suitable appointment for Gen. GRANT to make. It is just as wise and just as suitable as the retention in office of Postmaster-General CRESWELL after the disclosure of his share and that of his business partner, Mr. EARLE, in the arrangement by which GEORGE CHORPENNING stood to make about half a million out of the tax-payers of the United States, dividing it with his next friends, of course.

It is just as wise and just as suitable as the appointment of various well-known persons to office because they have given the President money, and houses, and horses, and libraries, and other good things.

It is just as wise and just as suitable as the appointment of thirty of the President's relations to good offices, notwithstanding they were Democrats, and had rendered no service to the Republican party. This the politicians don't like, but the politicians must be put down.

It is just as wise and just as suitable as the appointment of M. J. CRAMER as Minister to Denmark, solely because he was the President's brother-in-law. Old fashioned people might object to this, but the right rule is at last established, namely: the good places under the Government belong to the President's relations and to those who give him presents, and not to politicians, or to persons who can only show that they are deserving, honest, and competent.

It is just as wise and just as suitable as the government of West Point by the President's son; and what can be more suitable than that?

Since it is wise and suitable that the from BANCROFT DAVIS should be Secretary to this High Commission, it is to be hoped that he will make a good thing of it.

If anybody doubts Mr. DAVIS's qualifications, let him procure a copy of Senate document No. 133, published by the Legislature of Massachusetts in March, 1870. That document relates to certain doings between the Boston, Hartford and Erie Railroad Company and the Erie Railway Company, by which the latter was induced to guarantee five millions of Boston, Hartford and Erie bonds. Turning to the sworn testimony of President JOHN S. ELDRIDGE on page 162 the reader will find the following:

QUESTION *by the Committee.*—I see that Mr. J. C. B. DAVIS got $60,000; what was that for?

ANSWER *by President Eldridge.*—He was to draw the contracts, and aid us in carrying them through.

Q.—Was he one of the directors of the Erie Railroad?

A.—He was one of the directors at that time.

[By this transaction the Erie Railway Company, of which Mr. DAVIS was a director and legal adviser, lost about two million and three-quarters of dollars, but Mr. DAVIS got his $60,000 clear and clean from the Boston, Hartford and Erie Company in consideration of inducing the Erie to make the contract which resulted in this loss.]

We are glad that President GRANT and Mr. FISH are going to recognize the merits of Mr. DAVIS by putting him in with Lord TENTERDEN as one of the Secretaries of the Commission. It shows a noble appreciation of smartness and financial talent on their part, and a heroic contempt for the opinions of narrow-minded old-fashioned puritans who believe in honesty and foolishly revolt at bribe-taking.

THE SUN is sometimes counted among the opponents of the present Administration; but henceforth let no one deny that we admire its consistency, and give it a generous and intelligent support.

The Fisheries—Reciprocity.

Our Canadian friends beyond the border are already showing a little restiveness over the apprehended action of the gentlemen appointed to adjust our international accounts. But why should they be anxious? They will have in the Commission Sir JOHN A. MCDONALD, a man of unquestionable abilities, whom Canadians are fond of regarding as the first living statesman on this continent. Surely they can trust to his genius and fidelity.

Perhaps the difficulty is that he knows too much to be foolish on the fishery question. The average Canadian declares the fisheries ought to buy what he calls "reciprocity;" that is, the right to bring his wares to our markets free of duty. This is a groundless claim, and the larger an Englishman or a Canadian is the more clearly he sees it to be so. We have no need to buy what we own in common with all the world; that is, the right to the open sea. But this is what the Tito Barnacle Canadian proposes to sell us for reciprocity. But when our fishermen approach no nearer than three miles to the British shores, we claim they are on the open sea, where the rights of all are equal. The privilege of this proximity we do not propose to purchase. And we do not ask to come any nearer. This is our straight and simple method of ending the case. Further than this, we desire of provincial ports no privileges greater than those we daily yield in our own ports to British vessels.

Though these are all the demands the Americans make, the Canadians set up a great cry of encroachment, and have had their cruisers all the last season swooping among our innocent toilers of the sea like hawks over the chickens of a barnyard, and nabbing them here, there, and everywhere during the whole time. Some of the cases of capture have been so flagrantly hostile that even the courts in the lower Provinces where the vessels were brought in have been unable to find any excuse for such purely vexatious proceedings, and have released the vessels and condemned their captors. The High Commission sits none too soon to arrest these arbitrary and unfriendly proceedings. No doubt its action will block the pretty little game of creating a great irritation on the frontier for the purpose of allaying it with another reciprocity treaty.

The very solicitude the Canadians display over this feature of their case, shows that they know how transparent is the trick they are playing, and how apprehensive they are of detection. They evidently fear that Sir JOHN A. MCDONALD is too much of a man to pettifog the question; and in this it is most likely they are right. As a man of large powers, bent upon important ends, he will not be likely to condescend to a subterfuge that all intelligent people fully comprehend. Let the reciprocity schemers be quiet.

Stewart Falling Behind.

Ladies who frequent the best dry goods stores to make purchases generally state that JAMES MCCREERY & Co. and LORD & TAYLOR are making rapid headway in their competition with A. T. STEWART. Mr. STEWART recently made a great effort to recover the receding tide of trade by keeping open his store at night, having it illuminated, and making a display of his goods. The display is said to have been handsome, but there were comparatively few persons there to see it.

People don't like A. T. STEWART. The impression has become almost universal that he is mean about money.

Coal is selling at $10 per ton at retail, with a prospect of its being still higher before the week is out. This rise is owing partly to the long continued suspension of mining in Pennsylvania, but more to the sudden increase by the railroad companies of the rates of freight. They give notice, just as the miners are on the point of resuming work, that they will charge $7 per ton and upward for bringing coal to tidewater, instead of the $2 or $3, which they have been charging. Clearly, the people will have to lay hands one of these days upon these iron highways and regulate the tolls for themselves.

Drunkenness among women, we are informed by no less an authority than the *Saturday Review*, is becoming alarmingly prevalent in Great Britain. And this organ of the aristocracy has the candor to confess that the vice, far from being confined to the outcasts of society, is familiar to some of the most fashionable drawing-rooms of Belgravia; and to insist upon the necessity of some sincere effort "to check habits which are notoriously on the increase, and which threaten to degrade women even of the well-born and educated classes beyond the help of theories, however brilliant, of their rights." From a recent article on the subject, entitled "Drawing-Room Alcoholism," we make the following extracts:

"The rich escape the publicity of their practices which befalls our poor, and consequently we cannot so well guess at the causes of that failure in duty at home which is the result of their habits. Public opinion is in this case in advance of the law, and it is not to be wished that the law should follow in the track of public opinion in this matter. We do not wish to see the law of England made the law of Paris, or the law of Paris made the law of England