The Sun.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1873.

Amusements To-day.

Academy of Music—Les Huguenots. Matinée.
Bain Hall, Great Jewish St.—The Pilgrim.
Booth's Theatre—Booth, Brutus. Matinée.
Bowery Theatre—Our City.
Broadway Theatre—The New Magdalen. Matinée.
Dan Bryant's Minstrels, Twenty-third street.
Grand Opera House—A Flash of Lightning. Matinée.
Niblo's Garden—Black Crook. Matinée.
Olympic Theatre—Rip Van Winkle. Matinée.
Steinway Hall—Theodore Thomas's Concert.
Theatre Comique—Nellie, the Flower Girl. Matinée.
Tony Pastor's Varieties, Union Square—Ladies Free. Matinée.
Twenty-second Regiment Armory—Gilmore's Concert.
Union Square Theatre—The Wicked World. Matinée.
Wallack's Theatre—Otto. Matinée.
Wood's Museum—Solon Shingle. Matinée.

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SEMI-WEEKLY, per year	2 00
WEEKLY, per year,	1 00

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"The Constitution says that all trials shall be by jury, and the accused is entitled, not to be first convicted by a court and then to be acquitted by a jury, but to be convicted or acquitted IN THE FIRST INSTANCE by a jury."—SAMUEL BLATCHFORD.

Keep Church and State Apart.

The clause in the new Pennsylvania Constitution implying that a law may be passed by the State Legislature prohibiting the holding of office under the Commonwealth by such as do not believe in a God or in a future state, is a measure looking toward the union of Church and State. The innovation may be harmless in its immediate effect, for no such law is likely to be passed, and the atheists are few; but it opens the way for an endless chain of religious tests. Heretofore the theory of our system has been that persons are chosen to public office to represent the political and not the religious convictions of the people. A man should no more be elected Governor of a State because he believes in a future existence, or because he is a Methodist, a Catholic, or a Presbyterian, than he should be elected an elder or a deacon in a church because he is a Democrat or a Republican. Yet if the first step is to exclude from office those who do not believe in a future state, the next step will be to exclude those who do not accept the doctrine of the resurrection of the body, and then all who are not members of churches, and after that the members of each denomination will want to exclude the members of all other denominations; and then finally will come the contest over the question which shall be the established State Church.

A religion that is sound needs no help from the State. Various faiths, and notably the Christian faith, have come into the world and advanced and extended themselves over many countries in spite of obloquy, scorn, and persecution. Religions that all the power of public opinion, absolute monarchs, and cruel persecution could not quench, need no active political aid, nor do they require that other faiths should be legislated against, so that they may have a monopoly of offices on earth as well as of crowns of gold and amaranth in heaven.

This is a land of freedom for all. Here the Jew and the Gentile, the Catholic and the Protestant, the Pagan, and those that adore the great Manitou, with the sky for their only temple, may each worship according to the faith that suits him best; and the atheist need not worship at all. The continuance of this freedom in religious matters is of vital importance to the future of this country. There is no fanaticism like that of the religious zealot, and more blood has been shed in behalf of warring faiths than from any other cause since the world began. The entire separation of church and government has thus far freed us from a source of contention, beside which the most exciting temporal questions dwindle into insignificance; and any step toward uniting the two in the constitution of any State is something to be resisted and deplored.

Chorpenning Creswell.

For want of a better mouthpiece, it would seem as if the Administration at Washington had either authorized the Postmaster-General to express its opinions on the Cuban question, or else he has obtruded himself forward as a volunteer Secretary of State without commission. One of the Ring organs at the capital gives a report of an interview with this official, which bears internal evidence of having been prepared and revised by CRESWELL himself.

It abounds in the vulgar arrogance and ignorance which are the peculiar characteristics of the Postmaster-General, and it has him to figure in the sphere of venal jobbers, among whom he has acquired his chief notoriety as a member of the Cabinet. Referring to the discussion which the butchery at Santiago de Cuba has provoked in the press, he says:

"I am glad to note that the senseless clamor for aggressive or overt action on the part of our Government is subsiding. A great deal of injury has been done by the manner in which a portion of the press—I mean the sensational journals—has treated this subject. The people have been misled by journalists who ought to know better if they do not. In plain words, while the newspapers have demanded war, and have aroused the passions of the people to such an extent that they also demand war, the Administration, hampered by the restrictions to which I have alluded, has been powerless to respond to those demands."

These rude and offensive utterances may be accepted as a reflection of the President's mind and that of his Cabinet. The criticism of the press upon acts of barbarity which have shocked the civilized world is denounced as "senseless clamor;" and the uprising of the people in spontaneous protest against them and the demand for prompt redress are ascribed to their stupid submission to dictation from the newspapers.

It is a gross outrage upon the popular intelligence and humanity, quite worthy of the source whence it emanates, to charge that the "passions of the people have been aroused," or needed to be stimulated by appeals from any quarter, to recount the cruel butcheries which have placed the Spanish authorities in Cuba outside the pale of civilization. There is no former example in our experience where the public sentiment responded so quickly, independently, and unitedly as on this occasion. An electric current seemed to flash through the popular heart as the startling news of the terrible butchery at Santiago went over the wires. Every man with a humane feeling in his bosom, every woman and every child, revolted with one resentful voice against that atrocious crime.

The press has been, if anything, behind the stern determination of the people, and instead of inflaming passion has striven to subdue excitement and to treat this subject with the dignity and moderation due to its gravity. It would of course suit the treacherous policy of the Administration that the press should be silent and the people passive, in order that the disgraceful collusion with Spain, which has so deeply compromised the national honor, might be repeated in presence of this great provocation.

The allegation that the "newspapers have demanded war" is false. They have demanded reparation for an insult to the flag of the Union, for the forcible seizure of an American ship on the high seas by a Spanish man-of-war, and for the execution of American citizens without fair trial or defence, as provided by an existing treaty with Spain. And that demand will be urged until the last penalty for such offences is paid.

As the Administration has thought proper to treat with the *de facto* authorities at Madrid instead of dealing directly with the perpetrators of these infamies, it remains with that Government to decide whether adequate redress shall be given or not. The issue of peace or war is there, and depends upon how far CASTELAR and his associates will go in fulfilling the just expectations of the people of the United States. If their means should be unequal to the necessities of this emergency, and we should co-operate with them in enforcing obedience, that would not be war. If on the other hand the guilty officials were seized and held for trial independent of Madrid because of the inability there to execute its own decrees, war need not follow as a consequence. War can only grow out of this disturbance by a perverse purpose at Madrid to make war and to deny justice. It is not inevitable in any proper view of the situation, and still it may come suddenly upon us, because of the delicate and critical circumstances which surround the case, and the urgency for a prompt settlement.

The Administration has done its best to create alarm that war is impending, and to stir up the very passions which Mr. CRESWELL reproves, by pompous preparations looking six months ahead, and fussy personal exhibitions of the Secretary of the Navy and pet contractors at the navy yards. This unseemly show has been going on while six or seven ships already in commission and idling in the pleasant ports of the Mediterranean could have been summoned home and been now on the scene of the recent outrages.

Without intending to reveal the secret of the Administration, Mr. CRESWELL has let the cat out of the bag in saying:

"Now, in this recognition of his [CASTELAR'S] authority, we virtually declare our belief that the patriots who seek to establish an independent government on the island are rebels. You see that *considerably* demands that we should treat them as such."

Rebels against whom? They are no more rebels than the Government now recognized at Madrid. CASTELAR himself and all his surroundings are rebels against what was the established authority in Spain. When the monarchy was overthrown every tie was broken that bound the mother country or the colonies. The Cuban patriots struck out for themselves, raised their own flag, and demanded their own independence, with the same right and by the same revolution that overturned the last of the Bourbons. The old Spain that had held the island through centuries as a colonial vassal ceased to exist in 1868 by the emancipation of her people at home and abroad. Yet during these five years past every succeeding government has exerted brutal force to keep down and crush out that very spirit of liberty in Cuba by means of which the revolution was made that uprooted the ancient foundations. If the patriots are rebels so were PRIM, SERRANO, TOPETE, and others in 1868, and so are CASTELAR, FIGUERAS, and their associates to-day.

Notes for the Biography of an American Statesman.

In March, 1869, the American brig Mary Lowell was captured at Ragged Island by the Spanish man-of-war Andalusia. At the time of her capture she was in possession of the British Custom House officers of Nassau, to which place they were conveying her. When captured she was employed in legitimate commerce. If she was at the time, as proven by the affidavits of all on board, within British waters, it was the duty of HAMILTON FISH to demand an apology and reparation for the insult from England. If she was not in British waters, Spain should have been taught that American vessels could not be captured with impunity on the high seas in time of peace. The Mary Lowell was taken to Havana, where she was condemned and sold, together with her cargo, valued at $200,000. And nothing was done about it!

In August, 1869, HAMILTON FISH sent through Gen. SICKLES, United States Minister at Madrid, a proposition to the Spanish Government for the settlement of the Cuban question. He stipulated a limit of thirty days for its acceptance or refusal, and positively promised Mr. MORALES LEMUS, then Cuban Envoy to this Government, that if the proposition was not accepted by Spain within the stipulated time the belligerency of the Cuban patriots should be at once recognized. Spain not only refused to accept Mr. FISH'S ultimatum, but spurned it offensively. Cuba's belligerency is not yet recognized.

On the 14th of December, 1871, the American steamship Florida, after having detached her screw, left the port of St. Thomas, W. I., under sail for this port. She was immediately followed out of port by the Spanish man-of-war Vasco Nuñez de Balbao, which overhauled her, fired a blank cartridge at her, examined her papers, which were found correct, and allowed her to proceed. This outrage was the more scandalous because the United States men-of-war Nantasket, Capt. CARPENTER, and Shawmut, Capt. POTTER, were in the harbor of St. Thomas while the Florida was lying there blockaded by the Spanish vessel. Capt. POTTER, moreover, assured Capt. MITCHELL of the Florida that if his ship was molested he would come out and protect her. When, however, the Florida left she was quickly followed by the Spaniard, and the only notice taken of their departure by the Shawmut was dipping her colors to the Vasco Nuñez as she passed. The outrage upon the American flag was committed within sight of St. Thomas. For this insult no satisfaction was exacted by Mr. FISH from Spain, nor was Capt. POTTER of the Shawmut tried by court martial, as he should have been.

On the 25th of August, 1871, an American citizen, by name JUAN CLEMENTE ZENEA, was shot in the ditch of the Cabaña fortress at Havana, after nearly eight months' imprisonment, by order of a court martial. We have seen Mr. ZENEA'S naturalization papers signed by WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State, so that his was no citizenship trumped up for the occasion. Mr. ZENEA had been sent to Cuba on a diplomatic mission entrusted to him by Señor NICOLAS AZCARATE, himself the special agent of Señor MORET Y PRENDERGAST, then Spanish Colonial Minister at Madrid. The object of Mr. ZENEA'S mission to Cuba, which was undertaken with the full sanction of Mr. FISH and by concert between him and the Spanish Minister in Washington, LOPEZ ROBERTS, was to present to President CESPEDES on the part of the Spanish Government an offer of Cuban self-government conditioned upon a relinquishment of the contest by the Cubans. CESPEDES declined the proposition, and ZENEA was captured in attempting to leave the island. In this case there was no indecent haste. ZENEA was imprisoned nine months in the Cabaña and then shot. Mr. FISH simply abandoned him to his fate.

Do not the foregoing facts afford sufficient reasons for the capture of the Virginius and the massacre of her passengers? And there are plenty of others.

The Legislature and the Charter.

Undoubtedly the new Legislature, like its predecessors for the past twenty years, will overhaul our city charter with a view to its amendment. Most certainly this ought to be done, for the action of the last Legislature on this subject was characterized by an amount of stupidity and corrupt bargaining which scarcely find a precedent in the history of the State.

So imperfect was the new charter as first passed that it could not be set in motion without the aid of quite a little code of supplemental acts; while it outraged all sound notions of municipal government by retaining in office the heads of certain departments, and providing for the appointment of some others by unusual modes which are liable to gross abuse.

This piece of patchwork was the product of a compromise between a body of thoroughly honest but rather short-sighted municipal reformers, and a set of office-holders and office-seekers who conspired to keep what they had got and get what they could. This compromise and conspiracy covered the Legislature with disgrace, brought the city government into disrepute, and contributed much to produce the reaction against the Republican party of the State in the recent elections. While the people did not suppose that anything like the sums of money were spent at Albany in carrying through the present charter which TWEED used to pay for such purposes, they now have no doubt that the number of fat places in the municipal government which were sold to consummate the job had no parallel in the reign of the fallen Boss.

A city government thus created has borne its natural fruits. The difference between the old Tammany régime and the present mongrel rule seems to be about the difference between a bluff, big robber who walks into your house at high noon, shakes his fist in your face, and boldly carries off your plate, jewelry, and greenbacks, and a sneak thief who skulks into your hall under cover of the twilight, and while pretending to leave a religious tract steals your cotton umbrella. The treasury does not suffer as much from this petty malfeasance as it did from the wholesale plunder of the old Ring; but the city is as thoroughly disgusted with it because it is perpetrated in the name of reform, and because its authors seek to cover offences against honest administration by hypocritical professions of zeal in the public service.

The incoming Legislature can do something to rectify the blunders of its predecessor by making certain heads of departments in this city elective, and by providing for their early appearance at the polls. All who directly handle the public moneys should be made to pass this ordeal by the 1st of April next. Among these should at all events be the Comptroller and the Chamberlain. To these there ought to be added, in the opinion of many persons, the President of the Tax Commission and the Commissioner of Public Works. All these officers should be brought to the ballot boxes annually, and they should be liable to removal from office by the Governor at any time, as in the case of the State Treasurer and sheriffs.

The last Republican Legislature committed serious mistakes in framing a government for this city. Nobody doubts that a portion of its members were hired to do this job. The party has since suffered for the sins of its representatives at Albany. Will the new Republican Legislature rectify these mistakes and thus save its party?

The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

We note various articles in the collection as we pass through it which are worthy of special attention. Here are some of them:

BURSLEM POTTERY.—In the north front case in the porcelain room is a delicious cup and saucer, pale blue, delicately gilded. It is modern English work, and shows the perfection to which English potters have brought the art. Sevres or Dresden has not surpassed it.

HOCHST.—This German factory achieved great reputation for figurines. In the case devoted to these we find a delicious statuette of a boy, which in modelling and color is beyond praise.

VERNONT.—The only specimens of modern American art in the porcelain room, and perhaps in the whole museum, are two items in pottery, made at Bennington, Vt., about 1846. We do not know of any other factory in America which has produced this kind of work. They are curious and interesting, if not artistic. Perhaps the day will come when America will be able to enter the markets of the world with pottery and porcelain. Such a feeble display of our work is calculated to direct attention to it.

SCONCES.—Our country readers are familiar with the ordinary tin sconce used to hang against a wall and hold a candle. There is precisely such a sconce, made of pottery, in the CESNOLA collection, holding an earthern lamp. There is very little that is new under the sun.

JEWELRY.—Among the Cypriote jewels are several shawl pins of gold, silver, and bronze, the pin being an elongation of the ornamental part at one end and closing into it at the other end with a spring. This is precisely like the most common modern form of shawl pin worn by our ladies.

GLASS.—Notable among the CESNOLA specimens of glass are several goblets or drinking cups of a remarkably convenient as well as graceful form. They seem to have been made originally round like a common tumbler, and then indented or bent in on four sides, so as to give a firm and easy hold for the fingers. A very good form for hard drinkers when the grasp begins to be unsteady.

PIPES.—Lovers of tobacco might luxuriate in these specimens. There are two of Dresden porcelain, exquisitely decorated, work of the MARCOLINI period, and there are many of the celebrated Egyptian pipes of OSIOUT, made of the clay which Orientals esteem, and colored red or black.

A NECKLACE.—There is a whole day's study of beauty in a necklace made of ancient engraved gems, intaglios, mostly on sards, mounted and arranged for modern use, and belonging to Mr. S. L. M. BARLOW. This is a style of ornament exhibiting the most refined and cultivated tastes, and more precious than diamonds.

Every one should visit the museum, not once but many times.

Where we Stand.

The *Tribune* publishes the following statement respecting the condition to which the Treasury has been brought under the management of President GRANT and Secretary RICHARDSON:

"The financial condition of the Government continues to grow worse day by day, a circumstance somewhat overlooked in consequence of the Cuban excitement. The fact need not be concealed that the Treasury is practically bankrupt. The limit of the legal-tender circulation is $356,000,000, but at the close of business yesterday the actual amount outstanding was $382,000,000, or $26,000,000 more than is allowed by law. The available cash owned by the Government is only $2,000,000, and this is scattered all over the country, in national banks and subtreasuries. Yet the five-dollar system of silver resumption goes on uninterruptedly."

This shows the advantage of having great men and great financiers to manage our public business. It proves also that our Wall street bankers knew what they were about when they sent out their famous political circular last year glorifying President GRANT as a remarkable financial genius, and deprecating the election of HORACE GREELEY. And as we now seem to be on the verge of a war with Spain, it must be an occasion of great satisfaction and rejoicing not only to those bankers but to the whole people to be able to reflect that this war will be conducted by such original, solid, and safe statesmen as GRANT, RICHARDSON, FISH, ROBESON, and the rest.

This is a wonderful world, and, as the *Tribune* says, the Treasury is practically bankrupt.

If we should have war with Spain it will still be necessary for the Spanish Government to retain counsel in this country; and under such circumstances the fees will be larger than ever.

The latest wildcat, or polar bear enterprise in Canada, is the building of the eastern portion of the Canada Pacific through the Hudson's Bay region. A party of engineers, who have been exploring the country, have discovered several new facts which ought to appear on the maps. The dangerous Quinze river, so-called because it has been supposed to have fifteen rapids, has only fourteen. It empties into Lake Temiscamingue. The party also made a careful examination of the region lying around Lake de Quinze, Lake Abikoba, Lake Aposatika, Lake Expanse, the Ottawa river beyond the Bear Chutes, and the Abitibee river. They saw no white men after leaving Lake Temiscamingue, with the exception of those located at the different Hudson's Bay posts. Indians roam at will over the vast territory. The chief of the Abitibee Indians exchanged bear hams for flour and grease. The Indians are nowhere of an advanced age, the climate or their habits of life being unfavorable to longevity. Game and fish are said to be plentiful, and Mr. CHANDLER thinks that a large extent of the territory is adapted for agriculture. But alas! how can the road be built in the present state of the money market?

So we are going to have another war. Ha! ha! ha! we should have been in going into the best one, if we had enjoyed the benefit of a Fish at the head of the State Department, a RICHARDSON in the Treasury, a SECOR ROBESON in the Navy, a BELKNAP in the War Department, and a CHORPENNING in the general Post Office, with a GRANT in the White House.

What gay chances for stealing this new war will offer!

The Pittsburgh *Commercial* is furiously indignant because the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention took measures to provide that there should be a fair election in ring-ridden Philadelphia when the question of adopting the new Constitution comes to be voted upon, and trusts that the people of that city will not tamely submit to the insult which the Convention has put upon them. This is a very natural position for the *Commercial* to take, since the importance in the Republican party of its editor, Mr. RUSSEL ERRETT, and that gentleman's sphere of usefulness would both be seriously diminished if honest elections should be secured in Philadelphia and the ring of ballot-box stuffers, disreputable politicians and professional plunderers who now dominate in Pennsylvanian politics thereby be broken up and destroyed. A pure ballot box in Philadelphia means the overthrow of conspirators against the public welfare throughout the whole whole State.

What a pity it is that during the rebellion we did not have somebody like HAMILTON FISH at the head of the State Department. In times that try men's souls it is a great thing to have such wisdom to tie to. And if he has a son-in-law who gets fees, so much the richer he may become.

The farmers of Calloway county have sensible ideas on political questions. They have resolved that "they disdain being a political organization, whose object is the furtherance or promotion of any political party. Nevertheless they hold that every citizen is under obligation to perform a political duty in trying to have the best men serve them in the capacity of officers; and that to ignore or shirk this duty is a species of moral cowardice, the effect of which is to let partisan demagogues, tricksters, and wire-pullers feast upon us and continue the evils under which we now suffer."

"Go forth my son," said a sage of other days, as his heir was starting on a tour of foreign travel, "Go forth and see what knaves and imbeciles rule the world!" And this was before GRANT'S Administration was inaugurated.

AMUSEMENTS.

Italian Opera—Rigoletto.

Verdi's "Rigoletto" was performed for the first time this season at the Academy last evening. The cast was one that in less fortunate days than those we now enjoy would have been considered a strong one, and in fact it was only weak as compared with the possibilities at the manager's command.

In point of fact, the opera was well and smoothly rendered.

A little disappointment was naturally felt that the title *rôle* had been transferred from M. Maurel to Signor Del Puente, but this disappeared in the general approbation that attended the latter gentleman's admirable representation of the character. Signor Del Puente's voice is somewhat hard in quality, but he uses it with admirable skill and discretion, and altogether has proved himself a most praiseworthy artist, especially in this character, which for the first time has given him an opportunity to show the full extent of his abilities.

The other principal *rôles* were assumed by Mlle. Ferrani, Miss Cary, and Mons. Lapoul. The latter was as usual an arch lover, singing at times charmingly, and rolling about, balancing himself first on one leg and then on the other, after his fashion of expressing the ease and nonchalance of a successful wooer. Mlle. Torriani sang the brilliant and melodramatic music of this opera with lightness, facility, and grace. Miss Cary assumed one of the lesser *rôles*, but her honest voice and earnest singing made want that there was of it most enjoyable. Signor Scolara was also in the cast.

There is this to be said of Mr. Sbriglia, the artiste. They are good musicians and they sing in tune. There never was a singer that we can recall where this was so much to be said. Signor Colletti has a voice of quality that is entirely to be admired, and it must be said for him that he makes the most of his opportunities.

The celebrated quartette in the last act was splendidly given, and won a deserved encore. Verdi here reached the height of his powers, and displayed true genius. It is pitiable that fine writing like this should be in such sharp contrast with the dreary triteness of a great part of this opera. At the matinee to-day the "Huguenots," with its superb cast, will be repeated, and on Wednesday next the "Egyptian Aida," a work that has excited so much curious interest abroad.

MORE OF THE SAME SORT.

HOW THE PROPERTY HOLDERS ARE PLUNDERED.

Gen. Babcock and his Measurements of Ring Jobs—Fraud and Nothing Else—They Don't Like to Show their Papers.

Correspondence of The Sun.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 12.—I have heretofore shown how the United States has been robbed of hundreds of thousands of dollars through the false measurements which were certified to and approved by Gen. O. E. Babcock. In this letter I propose to show how property holders in this city are plundered by false measurements made by the engineer of the Board of Public Works. The same system which was pursued under Gen. Babcock's direction evidently prevails under the Board of Public Works. All of the work which was done around Government property was represented in Gen. Babcock's vouchers at from two to ten fold in excess of the amount actually done. In the case of the property holders, against whom special assessments have been made for the improvement of streets, the frauds are not so exaggerated as those practiced under Gen. Babcock, but they are frequently so great that they are detected by the most inexperienced citizens. I have a dozen instances which I could cite, but will confine this letter to one case, which is perhaps the least glaring of the many to which my attention has been called.

C street West, between Fourteenth and Fifteenth streets Northwest, was paved during the present year by order of the Board of Public Works. The street required little or no grading, there being less than an average of three inches of earth to be removed. The pavement laid was cobble stone, and the curbing was a common quality of blue stone. The roadway is but 40 feet wide, and the sidewalks 10 feet. The length of the street between Fourteenth and Fifteenth streets is 350 feet. The property on both sides of C street is owned by seven persons, as follows: A. Hosch, the lot on the northeast corner, fronting 124 feet 2 inches on C; Henry Willard, the lot adjoining on the west, fronting 68 feet on C; G. T. Robb, the remainder to Fifteenth street, fronting 178 feet on C. On the south side of C street, commencing on the Fourteenth street side, A. Harvey owns 100 feet; J. E. Miller, 85 feet 1 inch; David A. Windsor, 85 feet 1 inch; and Thomas Lewis the remaining 100 feet. The following diagram will enable the reader to comprehend at a glance these details:

POOR WORK AT A HIGH PRICE.

The contract to pave the above described street was awarded to Hudnell & Fletcher, and the condition of the street to-day shows that they performed their work hastily and carelessly. The cobble stone pavement was very badly put down, and a great portion of it has given way, and unless repaired this fall the street will be impassable by spring. Now, for this worthless pavement and inferior blue stone curbing and ten feet brick sidewalks the property on this street has been assessed $4.80 per front foot, as will be seen by the following bill rendered against lot No. 9, square No. 230, on the south side of the street:

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS,
Book 2. ASSESSOR'S OFFICE, COLUMBIA BUILDING,
Folio 16. FOUR AND A HALF STREET, ROOM NO. 4,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 11, 1873.

JAS. C. HALL: You are hereby notified that lot No. 9, square No. 230, in Washington City, has been assessed by the Board of Public Works for special improvements on C street:

Carriage and foot way	$98 40
Water service	
Sewer service	
Gas service	
Total	$98 40

As is shown in the above plot of C street, No. 9 in square 230 fronts 85 feet 1 inch on this street. Thus it will be seen that the rate per front foot is a fraction over $4.80. There are 710 front feet of property in the two squares which are assessable for the improvement of this street. That would make the total amount assessable to private property on C street, between Fourteenth and Fifteenth streets, $3,552. By the organic act "not exceeding one-third of the cost of improvements can be charged to private property immediately adjoining and specially benefited by them; therefore, the entire cost of C street, between Fourteenth and Fifteenth streets, must be three times $3,552, or $10,656.

INTERESTED ASSESSMENTS.

It is apparent that this is a fraud. It is impossible to make a street 350 feet long and 60 feet wide, on which there was little or no grading to be done, and which was paved with cobble stone, cost $10,656—over $4.80 per square yard for carriage and foot ways. On the same street, between Seventh and Ninth streets—what is known commonly as Market Space—a wood pavement was laid, brick sidewalks laid and granite curbing set, and yet the assessment made against private property for the improvement of this street was only $4.05 26-100 per front foot. (See tabular statement No. X., Annual Report of the Board of Public Works.)

Again, the same street, between Ninth and Tenth streets, is paved with Belgian stone blocks. The assessment bills for this work rendered to property holders show that only $4.28 per front foot has been levied upon the private property bordering the street at this point. Mr. Alex. R. Shepherd owns property fronting on this street between Ninth and Tenth streets.

It is quite easy to demonstrate the fraud that has been practised upon the property owners on C street, between Fourteenth and Fifteenth streets. The street is just 350 feet long, and the roadway paved with cobble stone is just 40 feet wide, which will give 1,644 square yards to be paved. Now the Board of Public Works in their annual report, Nov. 1, 1872, give the cost of paving an alley with cobble stone in tabular statement seven. I quote from it as follows:

Material.	Quantity.	Price.	
Alley, square Cobble stone	1,581	50c. sq. yd.	$790 50
20 in. between curter flag	576	50c.	288 00
Extra brick crossings	12	20c. each yd.	2 40
15 in. Belgian block	1,294	31c. sq. yd.	401 20
North ..... Sidewalks	68	26c. sq. yd.	17 68
Total cost of alley			$1,510 26
Total cost of sewer			520 17
			$1,921 53
Add 5 per cent. general expenses			96 05
Charge			$2,017 58
General fund expenditure		$1,345 32	
Property owners contractors		672 26	$2,017 58
Being at $3.78 61-100 per foot.			

Thus it will be seen that for cobble stone pavement laid the board pay 55 cents per square yard. For blue stone curbing, 5x20, they charge the contractor, according to tabular statement II in their report, 90 cents per lineal foot. They allow contractors for setting new curb, according to their statements to the Committee of the House of Representatives (See Report No. 22, 42d Cong., 2d Sess., p. 752), 25 cents per lineal foot. For new brick sidewalks, according to the same authority, they allow 80 cents per square yard. Now, taking these figures and the dimensions of the street, and I find as follows:

Roadway 370 feet long and 40 feet wide—1,644 4-9 square yards at 55 cents	$904 42
Sidewalks, 10x350 feet both sides, 822 2-9 square yards, at 80 cents	657 77
Curbing, both sides, 740 feet, at $1.15	851 00
Total cost of street without grading	$2,413 19
Allow one foot was excavated, 822 2-9 cubic yards, at 30 cents	246 66
Total cost, with 9 inches more excavation than was done	$2,659 85

WHAT THE PROPERTY OWNERS SAY.

After having satisfied myself that a great fraud was being practiced upon the property holders along this street, I called upon three of them, Jas. L. Miller, David A. Windsor, and Geo. T. Robb. Mr. Miller was outspoken in his denunciation of the Board of Public Works and their engineer, Mr. Forsythe. He said that five of the property owners on the street had combined and contributed $1,200 to resist the monstrous charges which had been made against their property. He said he had just purchased lot No. 9, square 230, from Mr. Jas. C. Hall, and had all taxes and assessments to pay; he was in favor of the improvement of the street and was willing to pay a fair price, but he would never submit to an assessment of $4.80 per front foot.

Correspondent—Mr. Miller, have you had the work measured and any calculation of its cost made by an experienced engineer?

Mr. Miller—Yes, sir. We have had the measurements made by an accomplished engineer and allowed prices which we know to be in excess of those allowed by the Board of Public Works for similar work on other streets; handing me a slip of paper here is the result. The following is a copy of the calculations made by the engineer employed by the property holders of cost of paving C street between Fourteenth and Fifteenth streets Northwest:

Roadway, 40x370—1,644 4-9 square yards at 75 cents	$1,233 33½
Footway, 10x370, both sides—822 2-9 square yards at $1	$822 21 1-9
Curb, 740 feet at $1.10	814 00
Excavation, 1,100 cubic yards at 30 cents	330 00
Total cost	$3,199 55 5-9

Correspondent—I see you have allowed 1,100 cubic yards of excavation. Did your engineer say that that amount of excavation had been done?

Mr. Miller—No, sir. He said there had not been more than three inches excavated over the entire surface of the street.

Correspondent—It would require a cut of over four feet to make 1,100 cubic yards. There was no such quantity removed?

Mr. Miller—Certainly not. We allowed 1,100 cubic yards because we understood that the audited bill in the Auditor's office, approved by Engineer Forsythe, calls for 1,100 cubic yards of grading.

Correspondent—How did you ascertain that fact?

A LITTLE ILL TEMPER.

Mr. Miller—Mr. David A. Windsor went to see Mr. Forsythe in regard to our bills. He asked to see his measurements of the work done on C street, between Fourteenth and Fifteenth, and Forsythe told him it was all right—the bills were correct. Mr. Windsor insisted that they were not right, and asked Forsythe to show him his calculations. Forsythe said he would show him how it was done, and brought out a number of papers from another room and I left them lying on his desk while he went after some other papers. Mr. Windsor picked up one of the papers left by Forsythe and found it was the audited bill for the work done on our street in front of our property. He at once noted the contents in his memorandum book. The total cost of the work was given at $4,559.90. He noticed the 1,100 cubic yards of grading, but before he had time to make any further memoranda Forsythe came back, and seeing the paper in Windsor's hands, jerked it from him and complained very bitterly because he had looked at it, saying it was against the orders of the board to allow any person to see any papers or give any information without an order from the board.

Correspondent—This is very important. Will Mr. Windsor stand up?

CORROBORATION.

Mr. Miller—If you will wait a moment I will bring him in.

In a few moments Mr. Windsor was introduced to me, and not only corroborated all Mr. Miller had said, but read me a letter he had written to the Board of Public Works, in which he states that he saw the audited bill at Mr. Forsythe's office and that the amount allowed the contractor for all the work on C street, between Fourteenth and Fifteenth streets, was just $4,559.90. Mr. Windsor further said that he had seen the contractor, Mr. Hudnell, and he admitted that he had only been allowed $4,559.90 for this work.

Mr. Miller—I have just been to the office of the Board of Public Works and I asked to see the audited bill, but was told that I could not see it without an order from the board. I then went to Mr. Henry Willard and asked him to give me an order, which he refused—saying it was against the rules of the board to allow any person to see an audited bill. I asked him if this was not an outrage to which he would not submit if he was a private citizen and not a member of the board. He replied that he did not know what he would do, but supposed he would do as I did—protest.

Correspondent—Mr. Willard is a property holder on that street, is he not?

TO BE INVESTIGATED.

Mr. Miller—He is. I asked him if he intended to pay $4.80 per front foot, three times as much as the street cost according to their Auditor's allowance. He replied that the matter would be investigated.

Correspondent—How long since that promise was first made?

Mr. Miller—Over two weeks ago.

Correspondent—Do you think anything will be done?

Mr. Miller—I don't know and don't care much whether they do anything or not. We have the money to carry the case through all the courts, and we will do it. Of course if they reduce our bills to anything like a fair price, we will pay them and save further trouble. It is probable that they will do this, inasmuch as they will not want charges of this kind hanging over them when Congress meets.

Correspondent—But there are many other cases similar to yours. I know of a dozen or more.

Mr. Miller—Certainly. Systematic robbery is practised all over the city. Just think of it. We are assessed $5,552 as one-third the cost of improving this street, when it only cost, according to their own figures, $4,559.90. What becomes of the $3,053, the difference between what we are charged and what we ought to be charged?

I could not answer this conundrum, and therefore took my departure. It is to be hoped, however, that some way will be devised by Congress this winter to solve questions similar to the one propounded to me by Mr. Miller.

How to Teach a Child Honesty.

From the Nutcracker Bagbeat.

I am not sure whether I did right or wrong. I am sure that I meant right. It was on this wise. Believing implicitly that the bending of little twigs would be accomplished during the early stages of their growth, I concluded to commence on Vieve. My intention was to give her a lesson in firmness. Accordingly I filled a box with chestnuts, and placed it within her reach, saying, "Now, Vieve, dear, you must not touch them without my permission."

"Well, then, I dess I'll not," was the reply, while the brown-eyed three-year-old gazed wistfully toward the sweet temptation. I gave her six or eight.

"In my dear little potit, fank'oo!"

I went to my work, and labored with all the cheerfulness of an inventor who is pretty sure his machine is a success.

During the afternoon it occurred to my mind that those eight chestnuts were lasting a remarkable time. Assuming my blandest tone for the occasion, I asked,

"Vieve, have you eaten all your chestnuts?"

"No, I fink not."

"Come here, darling. Where do you get so many?

"Oh, I dits 'em out o' my potit."

"Well, there are more than I gave you at first." I said, as I examined the dainty receptacle. "O! Vieve, have you been disobeying me, and getting more out of that box?"

"I spects p'raps I have."

"But are you sure?"

"Yes, I's pitty sure."

"Oh, dear Vieve," I cried, with the feelings of one who discovers his invention to be a failure, "this makes poor mamma feel so sad. I do not like to punish you, but what must I do? I must have my little girl to obey me. Oh! what shall I do?"

The small sinner looked reflective.

"Well, mamma," she presently said, in solemn tones, "I dess 'oo had better pray."

Believing her suggestion a wise one, embodying about all the wisdom of the entire affair, I acted upon it. Returning to my occupation after our session had adjourned, the first thing that caught my eye was a scrap of old newspaper, containing this sentence:

"He who through intention or neglect throws before another a temptation is, if he be overcome, equally guilty."

I put away the box of chestnuts, and am waiting farther light.

A Story that Partially Applies to Deacon Kic'ard Smith.

From the Williams Review.

Dr. Hopkins—What does your enjoyment of a witty man depend upon?

Student—It is in proportion to his wit.

Dr. Hopkins—Supposing he is a good man?

Student—It is in proportion to his goodness.

Dr. Hopkins—Well, supposing he *knows* a great great deal?

Student—In proportion to his nose. [Class howl.]

Judge Fullerton Officiating at a Wedding.

From the Newburgh Journal.

The wedding of Elisha Stockbridge, Esq., and Miss Mary C. Haight, came off at the Summit Lake Mountain House on Saturday evening, Judge Fullerton officiating. It was a brilliant affair. Everything was in Stockbridge's best style. The *élite* of New York, Brooklyn, J