The Sun.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1875.

Amusements To-Day.

Academy of Music—Fra Diavolo.
Booth's Theatre—Henry V.
Barnum's Hippodrome—4th av. and 26th st., at 1 and 8.
Bryant's Opera House—23d st. and 4th av.
Bowery Theatre—The Black Stallion Hound.
East Side Hall—Olde Fyfer Concerts.
Fifth Avenue Theatre—Women of the Day.
Lyceum Theatre—The New Magdalen.
Niblo's Garden—Sea of Ice.
Olympic Theatre—Variety.
Park Theatre—Giselle Gorfa.
Robinson Hall—Mercadie.
San Francisco Minstrels—Broadway and 30th st.
Theatre Comique—Variety.
Tony Pastor's—Behind the Screen.
Tivoli Theatre—Variety.
Union Square Theatre—The Two Orphans.
Wallack's Theatre—The Shaughraun.

The regular daily circulation of THE SUN *for the week ending Feb. 6 was as follows:*

Monday	115,338	Thursday	118,212
Tuesday	117,088	Friday	116,786
Wednesday	117,421	Saturday	118,501
Total for the week			703,376
Daily average			117,229

Inability to Carry on the Government—Facts Deserving Attention.

The statement published by one of our contemporaries a few days ago as coming from Mr. HORACE B. CLAFLIN, in reference to smuggled silks, is deserving of attention from all the taxpayers of the country. Mr. CLAFLIN is one of the largest dealers in dry goods in the United States—he may be the very largest. According to the account published by one of our contemporaries, Mr. CLAFLIN stated that the only way to compete with other dealers in *silks* was to buy smuggled goods; that no one could enter the market successfully with silks on which the duty had been paid; he would be undersold by the dealers in smuggled silks.

Such an acknowledgment from a merchant of Mr. CLAFLIN'S extensive business and fair standing should receive the attention of the Congress of the United States. It is plain that the present Administration is not only in trouble in the Southern States, but that at the North, and throughout the country, it is unable to carry on the Government successfully; and that the revenue laws are no longer respected is a fixed fact, recognized and acted upon in trade.

It seems to us that this is the natural and inevitable result of the change by Gen. GRANT in the administration of the Government. He adopted an entirely new plan, which no President had ever ventured upon before. Instead of selecting a Cabinet from the ablest public men in the country, he introduced the novel system of constituting a Cabinet of inferior men, to hold the same relations to the President that members of a staff do to a General. These heads of departments were not competent to manage the business of their departments; and the consequence is that the Government has run down and been brought into contempt everywhere.

It is a pitiable condition of things. Perhaps it does not furnish sufficient ground in itself for the impeachment of the President; but it affords an additional reason for rejoicing that the second term of his incompetent rule will be his last; and it may also serve to teach the country that mere military success does not necessarily prove that a man is qualified to be President.

The Retreat to Chicago.

The excitement in the House of Representatives during the last few days was not the result of any accident or sudden impulse of passion. It was only part of the preconcerted plan of the GRANT managers to draw sectional lines, and to divide parties by seeking to revive the strifes, discord and bitterness of the war. Condemned by the country for their corruption, as well as their incapacity to administer the Government, they have fallen back upon that old trick as the last resort of their desperation.

Gen. SHERIDAN was sent to New Orleans to initiate this violent and vindictive programme. Eight years before, he had been ordered away from that city because of his persecutions, disregard of civil authority, and defiance of law. He long hankered for an opportunity to revenge his wounded pride upon an innocent people. The knowledge of that personal malice, as well as his reckless character, caused his selection by the President.

Everything was quiet, and there was no sign of disturbance. The officers and troops who had crushed the PENN movement in September were still stationed in the city, and partly in the State House. Gen. McDOWELL, who commanded the department, was at Louisville, in constant communication with Gen. EMORY. These officers were not only superseded without cause, but the whole proceeding was marked by deception, concealment, and falsehood. Everybody now knows that SHERIDAN'S mission was instigated by CLAYTON, DORSEY, WEST, and that crew of carpet-baggers and adventurers who have speculated upon the misfortunes of the Southern people. They knew that his revengeful temper and animosity sympathized with their own interests, and therefore they favored the appointment.

If there was a military necessity for his presence, such as has been untruly alleged, then there was no motive for hiding it. As it was, the confidential instructions directed him to play a false part, and to profess that his visit to New Orleans was for personal pleasure, and had no professional object. He did put on that disguise, and give out that he was on the way to Cuba at the very time he was confederating with KELLOGG and his gang of thieves and denouncing the people as banditti. Nor is this all of the plot. To make it perfect, Gen. SHERMAN was passed over, purposely slighted, and kept in ignorance of the change until SHERIDAN had received the instructions, answered "All right," and started on his journey. It is thus seen that the secret of this conspiracy was carefully guarded up to the time it exploded on the 4th of January, after SHERIDAN had been three days in New Orleans and perfected all the details.

The rest is known. His brutal bulletins were fulminated to provoke a disturbance by their insults and lies. Reports of events extending through eight years were compiled from the fabrications of KELLOGG, PACKARD, and their followers, and sent out as the result of his own investigations, certified as true when notoriously false, and intended to inflame the public mind. He openly sought a collision as an excuse for opening fire on the city and levelling it to the ground like a burnt Indian village.

The forbearance and prudence of the suffering people stood by them in this cruel trial. They bore the outrages calmly, submitted with dignity, and appealed to their fellow countrymen for justice. That appeal was nobly answered, and the blustering Lieutenant-General has been forced by public opinion to sneak back to Chicago, stained with discredit as a soldier and dishonored as a man.

Mr. Wallace's Dinners and Investigations.

Among the calumnies circulated against the Hon. WILLIAM A. WALLACE during the late Senatorial canvass in Pennsylvania was one to the effect that SIMON CAMERON, BOB MACKEY, and certain other Republican members of the State Ring ardently desired his election. In order to deepen the impression produced by this injurious story, and so effectually stain the character of the candidate that no decent Democrat would venture to touch him in caucus, BOB MACKEY ordered his man ERRETT to support him openly in the Pittsburgh *Commercial*, and the chiefs of the Philadelphia Ring crowded the columns of the Philadelphia *Press* with unsolicited praises of him.

But all these shameful devices failed. Their object was too manifest. Mr. WALLACE had served too long in the State Senate and had been too often Chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee to be discredited by such shallow inventions of the enemy. His fellow members of the Democratic caucus nominated him by an overwhelming majority over the best men in the Commonwealth, and thereby vindicated him to the satisfaction of every just and reasonable man.

But the CAMERON Ring refuse to abide the issue, and are perpetually devising new schemes to blacken the character of the Senator elect. In order to give some semblance of truth to the tales promulgated in the canvass, DON CAMERON, who has amassed a few millions under SIMON'S careful patronage, tendered a grand congratulatory dinner to the new Senator, and summoned from Washington the aged chieftain himself, with a numerous and appropriate retinue. The CAMERONS seem to have regarded it as very successful, and as furnishing plausible evidence of their continued domination in the State notwithstanding the change of party names and colors; and they caused it to be telegraphed all over the country, to confirm the impression previously made by them that Mr. WALLACE was peculiarly their friend, candidate, and Senator.

But we predict that the plot will fail as ignominiously as those which preceded it. If Mr. WALLACE'S speech to his Clearfield constituents means anything at all, it means that he has no intention of resting under the imputation of guilty complicity with the infamous State Ring. The circumstances of his nomination and election show that he is the absolute and undisputed leader of the Democratic party in the Legislature; and, as we mentioned the other day, he remains a State Senator till the 4th of March, and is still on the ground to attend to the important business in hand.

He will, we are sure, permit no sham investigations. MACKEY'S books will be thoroughly overhauled. MACKEY, McCLURE, BAUMBERGER, JONES, TOM McDOWELL, J. TRAINOR KING—everybody who is supposed to have any knowledge of the alleged secret and unlawful transaction between Mr. WALLACE and the State Treasurer, will be put upon the stand and subjected to a searching examination. Mr. WALLACE can afford nothing less, and certainly he can intend nothing less. His published utterances show that he is in deep earnest and means no good to the CAMERONS and the Ring. It is quite true that the resolution to investigate the Treasury has been referred to the Judiciary Committee to inquire and report as to whether the House has the necessary power to inform itself in this way; and from that circumstance some persons argue that it is not really intended to have any investigation at all. We confess that we should feel a little discouraged ourselves but for the fact that Mr. WALLACE is personally present at Harrisburg, with the manifest power, interest, and inclination to force a vigorous and effectual inquiry.

There is no possibility of failure. That he possesses the highest qualities of a leader was amply proven in the conduct of his own canvass; and the magnetic influence which he exerts by personal contact with members was strikingly evinced by his immense majority in the party caucus. He will not be balked of his stern purpose. Not only are his own present reputation and his whole future career dependent upon the result, but the ascendancy of the Democratic party is in imminent danger; and if Mr. WALLACE is noted for any one thing more than another it is for his steadfast devotion to his party.

We rejoice that the people of Pennsylvania have the solid assurance of victory over the treasury thieves. Mr. WALLACE is there in person, and will remain until all about the time the Legislature adjourns. The House was organized in his interest, and is happily subject to his control. The Judiciary Committee will report in due time, that the Legislature of a sovereign State is supposed to have the power to inquire into the management of its funds, and the time between the date of that report and the middle of March, if it should be only ten minutes, will be devoted to one of the most merciless investigations ever witnessed in a free country.

Two Effective Public Readers.

The fifth week in the BEECHER-TILTON trial begins to-day with the continuance of Mr. TILTON'S cross-examination, and the public will of course look for the lighter interludes which have hitherto varied the terrible darkness of the tragedy.

So far the chief hits and diversions of the trial have been drawn from the remarkable powers displayed by Mr. FULLERTON and Mr. EVARTS in the capacity of public readers. Mr. FULLERTON won immense renown by his reading of Mr. BEECHER'S letters. Indeed, it was reported that in his delivery he inspired such unexpected pathos into some points of those incomparable productions, that even the plaintiff was affected to tears. By a sort of oratorical offset, on the other hand, Mr. EVARTS'S great triumph was with a piece of Mr. TILTON'S verse, which he read last Thursday forenoon. He selected a gay love ditty of twelve stanzas with a French refrain; and it must be admitted that it was one of the poorest productions that even the muse of its author ever furnished; and this fact adds much to the glory of the reader.

As is very apt to be the case with pedants, the attempt to display a knowledge of French in this poem merely serves to demonstrate the writer's ignorance, as he not only makes the verb *vivre* rhyme to such words as heave, believe, cleave, weave, sleeve, and so forth, which is absurd, considering that the French word terminates with a distinct sound of the letter *r*; but he writes the line in the following fashion: "*Aimer, aimer, c'est à vivre.*" Thus he inserts a superfluous preposition before the verb, and makes a verse which is not French at all, and cannot be understood without a commentary, like the celebrated picture of the horse which required the inscription under it, "This is a horse," to enable the spectator to perceive what the painter intended to represent.

Nevertheless, all agree that Mr. EVARTS'S reading of this wretched hotch-potch was exquisite and most delightful; and they declare that he even pronounced the false French with intense, impassioned accents worthy either of an ardent lover or a very skilful rhetorician. In fact, in the final stanza, as his voice, dwelling tenderly upon each successive syllable, finished the ridiculous phrase for the last time, a tumult of laughter and applause followed full of admiration for the accomplished elocutionist.

We would not detract anything from the well-earned distinction of Mr. FULLERTON; but we must say that in this interesting competition Mr. EVARTS has decidedly beaten him. Mr. BEECHER'S letters bear characteristic marks of genius, and are alternately full of intense anxiety, joy, terror, remorse, hope, despair, laughter, and wailing. No man of brains and sensibility could read such letters without the greatest effect. In reading them the greater part of the reader's success will always be due to the extraordinary contents of what he reads; but with TILTON'S poem this is not so. It is not only bad French and bad grammar, but there is very little reality or force in the sentiment, and very little poetry in the verse. The merit of the artist who overcomes such faults and produces with them a pleasing impression on a public audience is all the greater; and therefore we conclude that in this line of dramatic effort Mr. EVARTS is the superior of Mr. FULLERTON.

The Disagreement—A Noble Jury.

The jury in the libel suit of KEMBLE against DANA disagreed from conscientious convictions. We respect such a jury. When they first came in, at seven o'clock, they told the Judge frankly that there was no possibility of their agreeing if they were kept together for six months. They came in again at nine and repeated their statement that an agreement was impossible, and Judge CURTIS, who, after the commencement of the trial, had acted with great fairness, discharged them.

They were an uncommonly intelligent jury. Several of them wore diamonds, and a wag of the press observed that those who wore genuine stones were for THE SUN while the *paste* ones were for KEMBLE. This, of course, was only a joke.

The jury stood *eight* for THE SUN to *four* for KEMBLE; and when it was proposed to give KEMBLE a verdict of *six and a quarter cents*, six held out against it because their consciences forbade their giving him one cent in such a case. We repeat: we have the highest respect for these jurors; they are true and noble men.

We think that in some cases a great deal too much coercion is used to compel jurors to agree on a verdict. We do not see, and never could see, why the principle of law—and a principle of justice it is, too—which vitiates a contract or a confession made under duress, should not vitiate a verdict agreed upon under duress.

We are for free juries, as well as for a free press.

Kemble.

A letter which we printed, written from Harrisburg, stated that KEMBLE received $25,000 of the EVANS money. KEMBLE says he did not; EVANS says he did not; and they both swear that he did not. Our readers can judge how much weight their oaths are entitled to; but we believe them. We do not think KEMBLE got any of that particular money.

The view which our counsel took on the argument was that for a man of KEMBLE'S very peculiar position and reputation it would be better to have it understood that he had a part of the money. "Otherwise," said he, "people will say you are a fool as well as a thief. You participated in the abstraction of the money, but got none of the proceeds."

Of course this language was used in a figurative sense, and did not mean literal stealing, but the plundering of the public treasury.

The *New York Times* takes occasion to remark that the case still remains unsettled. This is true, but New York has other juries left. Moreover, we believe that among the many distinguished services which our esteemed neighbor the *Times* has rendered to the country, not the least has been the publication of the infamous letter of KEMBLE, with quite as severe comments on him as any THE SUN has ever made.

KEMBLE was quite belligerent, in a good-natured way, while the trial was going on, and before its result was known, and bragging of his own prowess, he said, shaking his head: "My way always is, when I get hold of a rat, to keep shaking, and shaking, and shaking, and shaking," suiting the action to the word.

This reminds us of a little story, which, in the event of his trying a bout with the *Times*, after he gets through with THE SUN, may not be *malapropos*:

There are two gentlemen in this city, brothers, well-known as men-about-town. We will call them BILL and JIM. BILL stutters a little. Said JIM one day: "BILL, I want you to go with me and see a Scotch terrier. He is the greatest ratter in this city. We must have that dog." "I'll go," said BILL. They went. The terrier was brought out and a rat was loosened with him. To fulfil the character ascribed to him the terrier should have despatched a certain number of rats within one minute. But a single rat seemed to be fully a match for him. Indeed the longer they fought the more it looked as if the rat would prove the better of the two. The dog shook and the rat bit; but the rat seemed to bite the hardest. Finally BILL broke out: "J-J-J-J-JIM," said he, "*B-b-b-b-buy the rat!*"

How about Terrier KEMBLE and the *Times*—in case of a fight?

Somebody has invented a rubber shoe for horses, designed as a substitute for the iron shoe, and as a means of preventing the many maladies to which horses' feet are subject. It is even claimed that horses suffering with cracked or contracted hoof, and similar painful hurts, are quickly cured by the substitution of the rubber covering for the unyielding metal. The elasticity of the former allows the hoof to remain in its natural state or shape, while protected from abrasion against pavements by the heavy rubber sole beneath. As compared with iron shoes, the cost of the rubber ones is stated to be about one-third more, and their weight is some forty per cent. less. Owing to the nature of the material, the most accurate fits may be obtained, and, in respect to wear, the quality of the rubber used is intended to be such as will insure very great durability.

The rotary engine is a favorite subject of experiment with inventors which they do not suffer to lapse into obscurity for want of perseverance. At the fair of the American Institute, last fall, there were four or five of these machines, varying in design and detail, but uniform in the theory upon which steam was applied. The simplicity of the rotary engine is an argument advanced in its favor by persons who imagine it will one day come into general use; yet some of the most complicated engines we have seen are upon this principle. There has long been more than a suspicion in the minds of manufacturers that there must be a good reason for the want of confidence shown toward this form of steam engine, and engineers know that, for a given amount of power, a rotary engine requires a much larger boiler than a reciprocating engine. A careful and systematic trial was made last fall at the fair of all the rotary engines there present, and sets at rest the question of economy. The results show that to produce one horse power per hour the best rotary engine required twelve pounds of coal; while the commonest reciprocating engine, with a properly constructed slide valve, does not take more than four to six pounds of coal per horse power per hour. Instances are on record where a horse power has been produced with less than two pounds. One test at the fair showed that one engine present took forty-five pounds of coal per horse power per hour!

The British Admiralty have given another check to extravagant expenditure in naval shipbuilding at Chatham Dockyard by reducing the estimates for a vessel in process of construction to the sum they intended to be expended on her. They also intimated to the officials concerned that everything in the shape of excessive outlay is to be sternly discountenanced. It seems that the powerful armor-clad ships built at that dockyard during the past few years have been decorated internally in a manner and on a scale never before seen in vessels of war, and the Admiralty direct that in the future preparation of estimates for building ships all elaborate work and extensive embellishments are to be on no account encouraged, the ships built in the royal dockyards being, it is intimated, intended for the severe work of naval warfare alone. Unfortunately we have no Admiralty in this country to check the jolly ROBESON in the costly decoration of his naval pleasure boats.

An ingenious system of lighting is suggested by the *Scientific American*, as among the probabilities of the future. Given, say, a large hotel to be furnished with artificial light, the plan is suggested is, instead of having a network of gas pipes leading to the different rooms and to different burners in each room, according to the present method, to have the light for the whole building generated in one place, say in the main ventilating shaft for the utilizing of the surplus heat. The distribution of the light would be effected by means of reflectors, each throwing into its appropriate tube a bundle of rays—made parallel by a lens—sufficiently intense to flood the room to which they were directed with a pure white radiance, which could be turned on or off, or graduated by simply pressing a knob or turning a key. In size, the light tubes need be no greater than ordinary gas pipes, and even much smaller, since all the light required for the largest room might be transmitted to the reflector as an extremely slender beam. The terminal lenses would close the tube against smoke and dust, which would dim the reflectors at the angles; and by keeping the inclosed air pure and dry, the absorption of light would be inappreciable.

The whereabouts of the Hon. WILLIAM S. KING of Minnesota will soon become as great a mystery as that of little CHARLEY ROSS. It was given in the testimony before the Committee of Ways and Means on Saturday that a Miss MARY CAPEN had said to a witness, "I'll tell you something. KING, the ex-Postmaster of the House, is in Washington." Yesterday the entry "WILLIAM S. KING, St. Paul, Minn., 73," was discovered on the register of Barnum's Hotel in this city. On inquiries being made of the clerk, he said, "There is no such man here." When the entry in the register was pointed out to him as evidence that KING was there, he drew his pen across the line and shouted defiantly, "That's my business." All efforts to find WILLIAM proved unavailing.

The delay in crossing the East River last night caused by the ice made many passengers sigh for the completion of the bridge. It will undoubtedly be a bridge of size when it is finished.

Once more we state that Mr. J. M. McCLURE of Doylestown, Pa., has nothing to do with the frauds and defalcations of GEORGE O. EVANS except to denounce them.

SENATOR ANDREW JOHNSON.

The Ex-President's Reception and Speech in Memphis, Tenn.

MEMPHIS, Feb. 7.—Ex-President Johnson, United States Senator elect, arrived here to-day, and was met at the depot by several thousand persons. When he appeared on the platform he was met with deafening shouts of welcome. Mr. Johnson responded in a speech of half an hour's duration. He said the people of the South must lay aside sectionalism, and that the times demanded of the Democratic party that it should nationalize itself, and become the party not of this or that section, but of the whole country. It was also time, he said, for the people of the South to begin to make proper distinction between the Government and the administration of the Government. Let the South, said he, as a country stand up for the Government as made by the Constitution, combine with patriots of all sections to turn out of power the corrupt men by whom it is now administered for selfish and base purposes. Let us stand at home on our own altar, laying aside all party shibboleths, and kneeling side with united faces to heaven, in defence of constitutional liberty, for equal rights to all, irrespective of creed, nationality, politics, race or previous condition.

George is a Circus Rider, but She Loves Him.

From the San Francisco Call.

Just as Judge Louderback had announced that the Police Court would take the usual midday recess, a father and mother brought their daughter before the Judge, and asked that she might be sent to the Industrial School.

The girl, who could not have been more than sixteen, was in a state of hysterical excitement, sobbing as though her heart would break, and evidently in an agony of mortification. Her father, a good-blooded looking person of determined aspect, explained to the Judge that his daughter had engaged herself to a circus man now in Oregon, who had sent her money to come to him and be married. He had no intention of allowing his child to go. She had tried to run off several times within the week for the purpose of joining her betrothed. While the father told his story the girl buried her face in her handkerchief and moaned and cried painfully.

Hard old veterans of the police court glared at the father, dashed a hand across their eyes, and swore that it was a blanked shame, begad! The mother said Nellie had always been a good girl until the infatuation had seized her. And the tearful blue eyes and tender, quivering lips of the child confirmed it. She was utterly broken, and only when the character of her lover was aspersed by her hard-hearted father did she show resistance. Then she lifted up and defended George, telling the Judge that he was "a respectable young gentleman, sir; and we love each other."

The father and mother were the only people present who were not touched by the misery of the girl. A noted sluggerist said: "That youngun's all right. Those folks of hers don't know how to treat her. Damn me, it's a shame."

As Judge Louderback, moved by the repeated and urgent requests of the father, who seemed to be her the shrinking girl malice, was about to put his signature to the commitment, Nellie, giving a hopeless moan, sank on a chair. "Take her home and treat her kindly, and give her a chance!" said the Judge, rising suddenly and tearing the legal document in twain. "Take her home! Bailiff, clear the court!"

Lindaniel Williams's Interference in Alabama.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—Attorney-General Williams was before the Select Committee on Alabama Affairs yesterday, and was interrogated as to his sending troops into Alabama last fall. He said he had had no correspondence with the Governor of the State on the subject, but acted on information from other sources.

THE DECAYING RACE.

Mortality Among the Freedmen of South Carolina—The Death Rate in Charleston Three Blacks to One White.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Jan. 29.—The mortality reports of the two races which make up the population of this city present a curious study. In the State at large there is no published official record of the deaths, and the negro population of Charleston city is so far superior to that of the rural districts, in its similarity to white people in their manner of living, and its opportunities, through public and private charities, to preserve its health, that the city mortality cannot be taken as a fair criterion for the State at large. But even here an average of three colored people to one white person dies in a population where the colored people are only ten per cent. in excess in numbers.

There is nothing in the climate which is peculiarly noxious to the negro. On the contrary the negro is not so liable to yellow fever whenever it visits the city, and can at all seasons visit the adjacent country with impunity, when in summer it is almost certain death for a white man to do so. Nor is he so easily affected by pulmonary complaints from the northeasterly winds which prevail in winter as the other race. And yet according to the official reports the graveyard opens three times for him where it opens once for the white man.

The official records are not always correct with them, and it is supposed many young children are stealthily buried, to avoid expenses, outside of the regular cemeteries. Though the city furnishes the means of burial, and the last resting place is free, yet the negro is ambitious of display, and his funerals are always well attended when he gives them.

Another feature which should be taken into consideration is the number of still births among them. One of the medical faculty, who has been gathering statistics upon this question, exhibited to me a tabular statement, which he had been carefully compiling, and the rates of still-births among the negroes as compared with the whites was as

FOURTEEN TO ONE.

A talk with one of the most intelligent of our city physicians, whose duty it is to attend upon the poor, and who consequently is beset with the negro practice, was to me a source of great surprise, as he explained how the mortality among the negroes was so great. Besides being crowded together in their little, leaky, old wooden buildings, upon swamp lots, and leading very irregular lives, he explained that this city had become the asylum for negroes from all quarters, who had heard of this El Dorado of African beatitude, where the negro revels upon the wealth of his former masters. He said in his practice he constantly met negroes from the Northern States, from the Bahamas, from San Domingo, Cuba, and from Florida. Many of these adventurers come to the city in fruit-laden vessels from the West Indies, and bring along with them the seeds of various diseases, which they disseminate among the thickly populated hovels where they are entertained.

While this conversation was lingering in my mind I saw a colored policeman having in charge a pock-marked darkey with a foreign accent, who was telling his custodian "that was not the way black folks treated each other in San Domingo, where they were all black." The pock marks are frequently seen on the streets. Sometimes the whitened scars look scarcely healed, and make one shudder for his safety.

The doctor told me that frequently when he was sent for the patient was so far gone that he had concluded that there was no need to employ a physician, and that these calls were only made to obtain the regular certificate of the so-called attending family physician, in order that they might be buried without the supervision of the Coroner in the free burial grounds. Oftentimes, therefore, he merely wrote the certificate and left it for the use of the attendants.

THE COUNTRY NEGROES.

The condition of the negro in the country must be worse than in the city. There they have no physicians paid by the county immediately at hand to pay them attention or to provide medicines. Their medicine men with their fetich incantations, and decoctions from the wild roots of the swamps, form their sole reliance in sickness. How they live or how they die can only be learned from the more intelligent among them, and they can give no accurate information. But a large planter informed me that some time since, while he was superintending the lading of a vessel with a cargo of his rough rice, which is carried from the farm to the vessel in baskets on the heads of the negroes, he noticed a significant fact. Among the laborers thus engaged were fifty women. In the olden time, at 12 o'clock the women with their children were allowed to return to their cabins to nurse their infants, and then it was safe to calculate that one-half of them would avail themselves of the opportunity. Now, to his astonishment, only one did so out of the fifty to whom the leave was given.

The young men among them seem indisposed to assume the responsibilities of a married life, and even when they do so a laxity of morals prevails, which keeps the husband and wife as the only members of the family. Just under my own supervision I have two families, of a prolific lineage, who have no children. Frequently, when a man can afford it, from becoming an officeholder or prospering in business, he will have two or three wives, none of whom may be a mother. The negro tidal drain keeper of this city lately married one of these, but before his death he became religious, and was married to the woman he was living with, as his third living wife, and being the latest, his favorite. As his acknowledged widow she continued after his death to draw his pay, whether the drafts were called or not. Even after Bree occurred, and whenever the tide was high there was plenty of water, but when it was out the insurance companies suffered. They talked of bringing an action against the city, but with a negro jury, and a young unfortunate colored widow, as apparently the final heir, what could a limited corporation expect but defeat in such a suit?

AMUSEMENTS.

Theodore Thomas's Fourth Symphony Concert.

On Saturday evening Theodore Thomas gave a concert which, in respect both to the selection of the pieces and the manner of their execution, was as near perfection as any concerts, in which the trumpets are not blown by angels and the other instruments played by seraphs, can be.

The programme was happily varied and contrasted, neither too light nor too weighty, but exactly as it should be. It was as follows:

Symphony, No. 4 in B, Op. 60 ..... Beethoven.
Concerto, for two violins and orchestra (first time) ..... Bach.
Hungarian Dances, new ..... Brahms.
Concerto, for piano and orchestra, Op. 18, (G minor) ..... Rubinstein.
Symphony, Fragment, Op. 22, (new) ..... Heinrich Hofmann.
1. Andante—Largo e mesto.
2. Allegro—Allegro non troppo.
3. Intermezzo—Lives of Light and Frost Giants.
4. Finale—Prometheus Lucifer.

If there was any weakness in this programme it was in the fact that after the superb performance of the Beethoven symphony nothing could follow that would bring the audience up to the same impression of completeness and satisfaction at which the symphony left them. If any composer can follow Beethoven without detriment it is Bach. His concerto for two violins and orchestra, quaint, simple, graceful, and earnest, was played with true feeling and sentiment by Jacobsohn and Arnold. The Hungarian dances gave life and spirit to the programme. Brahms on a visit to Hungary was so much struck by the peculiar rytmus and wild melodies of some of these Hungarian national dances that he noted them down and afterward harmonized them as four-hand piano pieces, in which form they became so popular in Germany that Joachim arranged them for orchestra. Brahms himself and Madame Schumann have been accustomed to play them together, and with much more liberty as to time than Thomas gives them. The essential flavor of them is found in abrupt transitions and accelerated and strongly accented passages.

Madame Scheller played Raff's concerto with fine taste and execution. She is not a pianist of the *bravura* school, but showed herself possessed of a perfect understanding of the sentiment of the music, a fine touch, accomplished execution and nearly all the qualities that make a fine pianist.

Hofmann's symphony entitled Frithjof improves on hearing. Liszt and Wagner were undeniably its godfathers, but it certainly is better than much of the extravagance of Liszt. No description accompanied it to make its meaning clear which was unfortunate, for such a key would of course have added greatly to its interest. It was doubtless founded on the old Icelandic poem, half truth and half romance, known as the Frithjof's Saga.

Programmes of the Theatres.

Booth's will be reopened to the public to-night, and Shakespeare's "Henry V.," accompanied by a grand pageant, exhibited. Indications are that the public will take advantage of the occasion in numbers only limited by the capacity of the house.

At the Lyceum one of the very best artists in the country, namely, Miss Carlotta Leclercq, will to-night begin an engagement of only one week. She will act the part of *Mercy Merrick* in "The New Magdalen."

Wallack's is still, and probably for a long time will be, in possession of "The Shaughraun," and of popular favor.

The Union Square has adopted "The Two Orphans," and the public have adopted the Union Square.

The Fifth Avenue is given over to "Women of the Day," who may be, and are, seen every night by very large assemblies. When they shall retire, "The Big Bonanza," a new American comedy in five acts, by M. Paul Forestier, will be produced at the house. Mr. John Drew, one of the famous comedian of that name, has re-added to the Fifth Avenue company, and will shortly make his appearance here.

At the Park, "Giselle Gorfa" has won, and is winning, the highest encomiums nightly.

At Niblo's "The Sea of Ice."

Deposit your surplus money in the Mutual Benefit Savings Bank, in the Sun Building. Interest commences Dec. 1.—Adv.

The worry of a constant cough, and the soreness of lungs, which generally accompanies it, are both remedied by Dr. Jayne's Expectorant.—Adv.

Examine the new Stem-winding Waltham Watches sold by Howard & Co., 772 Broadway, N. Y.—Adv.

A TRANSPARENT SCHEME.

THE OBJECT OF SECOR ROBESON'S JUNKETING CRUISE.

Results of a $10,000 Frolic—A Plan to Sell the Washington Navy Yard—Effigy Sargent's Report in Furtherance of the Job—Who Wants this Property?

Two years ago a Congressional committee whitewashed Boss Shepherd, the great American plumber and gasfitter, and set him free to again prey upon the community in the character of a magnificent freebooter. And it is just two years ago that this very same Boss Shepherd, encouraged and backed up by his friend and associates, President Grant and Gen. Babcock, concocted a grand scheme to get possession of the Washington Arsenal and all the valuable real estate connected with it. Shepherd, Chipman, John O. Evans, Hallett Kilbourn, Henry D. Cooke, and others who have since become notorious in connection with the Washington Ring, were in that little scheme to rob the Government of property worth at least three millions of dollars. The magnitude and character of the swindle were so transparent that Congress extinguished it at first sight.

We have now another grand and comprehensive scheme of plunder just developing in Congress. This time it is the Washington Navy Yard, with all its complete and valuable machine shops that is wanted—not the arsenal. It is not Boss Shepherd and his gang of freebooters, backed up in Congress by Delegate Chipman, that are after the plunder this time. They are a different set of men, and are backed up in Congress by Effigy Sargent.

It will be remembered that during the last session of Congress a resolution was put through authorizing the Senate Committee on Naval Affairs, during the recess, to visit the different navy yards and hospital stations along the coast, and report on the expediency of dispensing with a number of them. A sub committee of three was appointed, of which Sargent and Norwood of Georgia, were the most conspicuous. It very soon became apparent that there was a magnificent job in this movement, and that Sargent was playing fugleman for the operators yet behind the scenes. It was noticed, too, that Secretary Robeson and a number of these friends who have been conspicuously near him took a more than ordinary interest in the matter.

AN EXPENSIVE FROLIC.

All our navy yards and hospital stations were accessible by mail, and could have been visited by these three committemen at a trifling expense to the Government. But Robeson, who is a magnificent and costly man in everything, insisted that they should proceed to their work in regal royal style and on a ship of war. Sargent's vanity was thus gratified at the public expense. A few years ago he was a poor type setter in Washington. Now, by the grace of the great Secor Robeson, chief mariner to the American navy, he could stand an honored guest on the quarter deck of a ship of war. Robeson had the United States steamer Dispatch fitted up in luxuriant style, and supplied with wines, liquors, and all the delicacies money could command. Never before did ship set out on such a voyage and with such wines and such a larder. All this was done at an expense to the Government of over $40,000, which was only a trifle, considering that the voyage was made in the interest of retrenchment and economy. In addition to the committee there were a number of "invited guests" of the respective friends of Robeson, who are often conveniently near when a fat job is up. Now, Senator Norwood is an honest, upright, unsuspecting man generally. But he very soon had his suspicions aroused, as well concerning the object of the cruise as the motive of his companions. The cruise was, in short, one of pleasure, and a right jolly time they had of it. I mean Robeson and his friends. Norwood got weary of it before the summer was half over, and left for home.

EFFIGY SARGENT'S REPORT.

The report of this wonderful voyage of discovery has just been made to Congress by Sargent. I need scarcely add that it is in every way satisfactory to Robeson, Cattell, Roddy, John Roach, and other enterprising gentlemen who may want to get possession of the Washington Navy Yard and its valuable machine shops. "The Washington Navy Yard," Mr. Sargent says, "has too small an area for an extensive establishment, and has of late years been used rather for a repairing and manufacturing yard than for building. The approach to it is by a crooked and difficult channel. It is far from the sea; is remote from supplies of timber, iron, and coal; the number of skilled artisans is limited, and there is no work done at it that cannot be more cheaply done and the articles more readily obtained at League Island." This specimen extract is enough for my purpose. And here let me say it would be impossible to crowd more stupidity and misrepresentation into so small a space, as I shall proceed to show.

"The Philadelphia Navy Yard was virtually been abolished in its transfer of material, &c., to League Island; and the New London station never did amount to anything worth mentioning. What Mr. Sargent or those who are behind him there mean it is impossible to tell. The Washington Yard. Old navy officers assert that this Yard is the most important station in the country, and admirably located, near the capital of the nation. It is essentially a manufacturing station, and its area can be extended to treble its present limits, notwithstanding Mr. Sargent's assertion. Its workshops are stocked with the best and most costly machinery to be found in this country or Europe; and it possesses facilities for constructing steam engines and machinery such as are found in no other navy yard in our country, if in Europe. This can be substantiated by reports of professional officers who have personally examined such establishments abroad.

IT IS THE ONLY ESTABLISHMENT

owned by our Government in which all the bolt and sheet copper needed for our navy can be manufactured. It is also the only establishment the Government has in which all the anchors and chain cables for the iron navy can be made. A few years ago, before Grant discovered Robeson and made him Secretary of the Navy, nearly all the galleys and cooking apparatus for the navy were made at this yard, and at a less expense than they could be purchased or made anywhere else. It is the present central and only ordnance manufacturing establishment the navy has, the others being mere repair shops. Some of the best ships of their class in the navy were built here. Among these may be named the Minnesota, Pensacola, St. Marys, and Brandywine. Nowhere in the country labor is so cheap and easy obtained. As to skilled mechanics some of the very best in the country are now employed in the machine shops of this yard. But what becomes of

SARGENT'S SPECIOUS PLEADING

on this point, when it is known that we are without hull, as it were, of the skilled mechanics of Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore? In the matter of coal, iron and timber, Mr. Sargent cuts a still more ridiculous figure. The rolling mills of Baltimore are in hourly receipt of iron rail. The Shenandoah Valley iron, the very best in the country, is within seventy miles of its navy yard. I have now before me a certificate of Gen. Thos. B. Franklin, of the Colt's Arms Works, Hartford, that it is made of iron of this description in a few years ago. With the single exception that it will not take as high a polish, it is pronounced equal to Russian. Here, too, we have the splint coal of West Virginia, that which none is better for smelting and steam purposes. This coal is sold here at less than $6 a ton. Georgetown, two miles above, and Alexandria, six miles below, are the outlets of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, down which nearly 50 per cent of all the Cumberland coal mined is brought, reshipped and sent over the country. The very best of this coal can be landed from canal boats at the Washington Navy Yard for $4 12 a ton. At no other navy yard in the country is coal so high and so cheap. Mr. Sargent is no better off in his statement about timber. We have the oak forests of West Virginia, which are now supplying a large amount of the oak timber sent to Europe from this country; the oak forests of old Virginia, Ohio, and Maryland are all in the immediate vicinity or within easy access of this yard.

TO BE SOLD AT A SACRIFICE.

The channel in its present condition is not what could be desired. And yet it is only a few years ago that all but the very largest ships in the navy could come up to the wharves with ease and difficulty. The truth is, this channel has been shamefully neglected. Soil and sand from excavations made by the Board of Public Works were allowed to wash into it and partially fill it up. Yet our engineers report that, with the expenditure of a few thousand dollars for dredging, the channel can be restored and twenty-three or twenty-four feet of water obtained. But I have already said enough to convict Mr. Sargent of either gross ignorance or wilful misrepresentation.

The question now is, can there be another Goat Island job in this? Here is property worth at least twenty million dollars? It has cost the Government more than that sum. Will Mr. Sargent tell us who the men are that are in wait to get it at their own figure? The Washington Navy Yard is not a voting institution, and in consequence has had few friends among politicians, and fewer among Robeson's favorite contractors.

TRURO.

Let Bergh be Abated.

From the World.

It is obviously scandalous that a person who is capable, either because he is a blockhead or because he is a brute, either through stupidity or through malice, of playing the fantastic tricks before