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THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 1885.

Amusements Today.

Fifth Avenue Theatre	8
Fanny Davenport's Theatre	8
Grand Opera House	8
Madison Square Theatre	8
Metropolitan Opera House	8
Standard Theatre	8
Theatre Comique	8
Tony Pastor's Theatre	8
Union Square Theatre	8
Wallack's Theatre	8
5th Avenue Theatre	8
8th Street Theatre	8
23d Street Theatre	8

GEN. GRANT appeared to have regained yesterday nearly all the ground he lost by the attack of bleeding on Tuesday morning. He awoke refreshed and brightened, and passed the day in comparative comfort.

Will Maine Try High License?

It would require a man with an intellect like a pedometer to keep track of the various changes and amendments by which the Maine Legislature attempts to make the prohibitory laws effectual. The process of improvement has been going on for more than a third of a century, and everybody knows what the present state of affairs is in Maine.

The last Legislature tried its hand at tinkering the battered and patched statutes. This week, under the new law, there is a spasm of enforcement in Portland and in other towns where prohibition is a farce for three hundred and sixty days out of the three hundred and sixty-five in the year.

Even Gen. NEAL DOW is said to believe that "very little good will result" from these last changes in the laws for the suppression of the liquor traffic. The single hope of this veteran prohibitionist seems to be that the Democratic party can be induced in some way to take up the cause which, as he now appears to believe, the Republican leaders have shamefully betrayed.

"The temperance men," Gen. Dow is reported as saying, "are thoroughly disgusted and indignant at the open protection afforded the liquor traffic by the Republican bosses, in spite of the party platform and the constitutional amendment." And he adds, with a touch of what would seem to be fine humor, if it were possible to suspect the Father of Prohibition of humor, "the Democratic party, I think, will be wise enough to take advantage of the opportunity now offered to secure its old standing in Maine."

From the common-sense point of view it seems highly probable that about the time the Democratic party gets full control of affairs in Maine the failure of the prohibitory system will be so apparent, even to the most fanatical of its adherents, that the State will be ready to try high license.

Was it not the fear of such a reaction against the whole theory and practice of prohibition that led the friends of that system to press through the constitutional amendment adopted last November? The amendment does not in the least degree increase the efficiency of the law, or help along its enforcement. All that it does is to make the law more difficult to change. Until prohibition was put into the Constitution, the whole system could have been swept out of existence in Maine by the act of a single Legislature. Now, a change from prohibition to high license or to local option will require the consent of two Legislatures and then a vote of the people.

Suppose they should try high license in Maine. Would the cause of temperance suffer, or the friends of temperance have reason to regret the change?

The Central America Embroilment.

Neither our State Department nor the Guatemalan Minister has up to the present time received any authentic news confirming the report that BARRIOS has been killed and his army repulsed. Hitherto all rumors on the subject have come to us through Salvador, and they who remember how the telegraph was manipulated in that country nine years ago will look with suspicion on despatches forwarded in a similar crisis from the same quarter. In 1876 we were repeatedly assured that the Salvadorians had been victorious, till, all at once, the main telegraph office at their capital being seized by the invaders, we learned that BARRIOS had achieved his purpose without much difficulty, and had dictated the election of his henchman, ZALDIVAR, to the Presidency of the discomfited republic.

The actual outcome of the recent attempt of BARRIOS to make ZALDIVAR keep faith and coerce Salvador into reunion cannot much longer be uncertain. In the mean time it behooves us to watch narrowly the course pursued by the Mexican Executive, which apparently intends to violate neutrality and enter on a campaign of armed intervention whose secret purpose may be the dismemberment of Guatemala. It seems that in a secret session of the Mexican Congress on Tuesday it was announced that an army of 15,000 men has been massed on the southeast frontier and is now ready to act on the offensive. Thereupon a resolution authorizing the Executive to declare war against Guatemala was introduced and will, it is believed, be promptly passed.

Now, the commercial interests, present and prospective, of the United States in Central America are greater than Mexico's, and our people will find it hard to understand upon what ground the latter power can arrogate a right to interfere in the quarrels of our weaker neighbors which we have formally disclaimed. Whatever may be the personal deserts of BARRIOS—and we observe that since his death has been reported even his worst enemies concede much merit to his administration—the cause of union which he advocates is eminently fitted to command our sympathies. Enlightened by the harsh experience of our own civil war, public opinion in this country will incline with peculiar unanimity and energy that the question whether Central America shall remain weak and divided, or become once more a compact and strong State, is not a question to be settled by Mexican politicians, but must be left to the decision of the people chiefly concerned, and it, we proceed to do the best in our own way, the process of reintegration can only be offended by insisting that the free American republics should be alarmed to fight out the controversy among themselves, without the overshadowing of any foreign power whose presence would be alien and whose influence would be partly regarded with distrust. Least of all condition in Mexico adapted for the use of disinterested, impartial intervention for the profound purpose of cultivating peace for the long years right to work for Divided southward, and on the footing that ZALDIVAR, if he has not already made a secret compact to that end, would be certain for Mexican assistance cheerfully agree to the partition of Guatemalan territory.

If it be believed in Mexico that Barrios has been killed, that the Guatemala Congress has revoked the decree proclaiming the union of Central America, and solicited an invitation from Salvador it can no longer be pretended that the other republics are in danger of violent conquest. Under such circumstances the despatch of a Mexican army against Guatemala can have no other aim but aggrandizement. The disinterested meaning of the movement cannot be vouched for by the city expressions attributed to ZALDIVAR, that, notwithstanding the death of Barrios, he is not yet sure of victory, and needs the aid of Mexico to quickly and decisively end the war. If the Guatemala Legislature has adopted the scheme of union, and we have exactly the same ground for believing this report as for doubting the death of Barrios, what has Salvador to fight about?

The action of Mexico in this Central American business will bear sharp and jealous supervision. We do not deem our own hands off in order to leave Guatemala at the mercy of less scrupulous and less unselfish neighbors. The neutrality, which is sacred for us, should be sacred for Mexico as well.

How the Civil Code Works in California.

Legal procedure has been codified in many States of the Union, and with much success. The code now before the Legislature of New York, however, relates not to the forms of proceeding in courts of justice, but to the substance of the law itself. It is an attempt to state in statutory rules the principal part of the common law, which is now to be found chiefly in the reported decisions of the courts. Not only does the work abound in imperfections, as has been demonstrated by able critics, but in our opinion its scope is too extensive, because there are many portions of the law not yet sufficiently developed for codification.

These serious objections to the enactment of such a code have been made before, and we do not propose to discuss them now further than to say that they are objections not in the interest of lawyers—for lawyers will certainly be useful, and will doubtless be fairly prosperous under any system of law—but objections in the interest of the people. In the excitement aroused not many months ago by the provisions of the new Penal Code in respect to the observance of Sunday, we had a forcible illustration of the evils of ill-considered codification. There is reason to fear far more trouble from the proposed Civil Code if it receives the approval of the Legislature and the Governor. Our purpose at this time is only to notice a favorite argument of its advocates, and to show how baseless that argument is.

We are constantly told that the Civil Code has been adopted in California and works admirably in that State. One of the results anticipated from its adoption here is that it will render the law more definite and certain, so that decisions in the tribunals of first instance will more uniformly be correct, and hence will be less subject to reversal in the appellate courts. Our esteemed contemporary, the *New York Times*, is so deeply impressed by the present condition of the law in New York as to declare that no imagination has dared depict a worse state of affairs. "A recent volume of Supreme Court reports contains 169 cases," we are told, "of which 75 are reversals. There is, further, a list of 464 cases, of which 127 are reversals."

The inference which the writer would have the reader draw from these statements is that the errors to be corrected by the higher courts would be much less numerous in proportion than they now are, if we only had the Civil Code. The suggestion has led us to inquire into the experience of California in this matter, and we find no evidence that the decisions of the courts of original jurisdiction in that State are more apt to be correct than the decisions of such courts in New York.

Take for example the latest volume of California Reports, containing the decisions of the Supreme Court during the first half of 1883. There are 188 fully reported cases in which the judgment of the court below was either directly affirmed or directly reversed. Of these 188 cases, 79 are reversals, whereas in the total of 633 New York cases mentioned in the *Times* there were but 202 reversals.

This comparison, which we commend to the consideration of the Legislature, indicates that the courts of California with the Civil Code are not more successful in accurately determining what the law is than are the courts of New York without it.

Theatrical Licenses.

No theatrical performance or entertainment of the stage of any nature, including the ballet and the circus, can be given in this city until a license therefor shall first have been obtained from the Mayor. For such license the charge is $500 per annum for a theatre and $150 for a circus. If a license be not obtained, and a performance takes place, a penalty of $100 for every such performance is imposed. For giving a play or exhibition on Sunday a fine of $500 is levied, and for a masquerade ball the fine is from $2,500 to $5,000, while the fine for admitting a minor under fourteen to a theatre unaccompanied by an adult varies from $25 to $100.

By special provision of law, all the moneys derived from these licenses, or from the fines or penalties, are paid over to the Society for the Reformation of Juvenile Delinquents for its own use. From the revenue thus raised the society supports the House of Refuge.

It is averred by the managers of some of our leading theatres, including Messrs. A. M. PALMER, LESTER WALLACK, and JOHN F. POOLE, that there is "no justification for taxing the theatre for the support of that prison for youthful criminals, and that the existing law brands every manager and actor as being directly concerned in the fostering and development of crime in the city of New York." Accordingly, at the instance of these gentlemen, a bill has been introduced in the Assembly, where it has been favorably reported by the Committee on Cities, providing that this stigma shall be removed, and the moneys in question be distributed by the Board of Apportionment among our charitable institutions, and not all be given to the one society in question. Mr. PALMER and his associates do not ask for a repeal or a reduction of the tax, but only for a change in its destination.

We think that Messrs. PALMER and WALLACK are right, and that the amendment they urge should be passed by the Legislature.

Mr. Cleveland's Successor.

We observe that a correspondent of our esteemed contemporary, the *Cleveland Leader*, entertains the idea that Secretary BAYARD, whose performance we mentioned as a candidate of the Cabinet, is going to be the successor of himself the Democratic candidate for President in 1888. This correspondent says that the news appreciated by Mr. BAYARD are, in nearly every case, "personal friends who have been against Bayard for him in past Conventions of the Democratic party. The greater part of his associates for the diplomatic and consular service have been of such calibre from Maine with large delegations in the National Conventions."

Whatever value this view of a member of Mr. CLEVELAND's present Cabinet may be of consideration, what is altogether the most noticeable feature of this Administration, Mr. CLEVELAND has begun, at least so far as the Democrats are concerned, upon a line of policy emphatically different from anything ever attempted before. He holds that Democratic politicians who have been potent in establishing their party in power should not for that reason be called upon to assist in the administration of the Government. Indeed, such previous service would rather seem to be a hindrance to their promotion.

Thus Mr. CLEVELAND appears to show a tendency to drift away from the old Democratic idea of governing through the people, toward the sentiments of the new theorists who profess to have the best of the public offices filled without regard to politics, not by the President, but by an examining Board.

This movement is still in the condition of an experiment. Its success cannot now be affirmed. It is as yet a venturous novelty and nothing more. No one can foretell its ultimate outcome.

It is reasonably certain, however, that if it finally obtains the public approval, no other candidate can be thought of but GROVER CLEVELAND in 1888. He is the apostle and champion of the new doctrine, and he alone can reap the reward of its success. He will be the victor, and to the victor will belong the spoils. But on the other hand if it fails, Mr. CLEVELAND must prepare to endure defeat and every one who has been associated with him in the enterprise will have to share the penalty, Mr. BAYARD along with the rest.

A Duty Remaining.

It is only about two weeks to the time which the Legislature has set for its final adjournment. There is no question pending before it of greater interest to the State at large than that for devising some plan for securing a steady supply of water to the Hudson River and its main affluents.

Since certain judicial proceedings which decided that the State has no valid title to large tracts of forest in the Adirondack counties where these rivers and rivulets take their rise, the basis whereon every proposed plan rested seems to have been swept away. But the necessity for the maintenance of these streams remains.

Public opinion drifts rapidly toward the conclusion that the State must take and pay for such of these lands as it wants for its own use. Can the Legislature accomplish anything on this subject before it adjourns? Must we waste another year in a matter where time is so precious?

A Voice from the West.

"I am a lawyer, and not a politician."

So says the Hon. JOSEPH E. MCDONALD of Indiana, formerly a Senator from the Hoosier State, and one of the most prominent Democrats in the country.

The remark was made in response to the suggestion that Mr. MCDONALD might be appointed a Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, when a vacancy should occur on the bench of that tribunal.

Mr. MCDONALD, however, should not assume that because he is a lawyer, and not a politician, he must resign all hope of political preferment.

A very short time ago Mr. CLEVELAND was "a lawyer and not a politician," yet now he is President of these United States, and the Hon. THOMAS A. HENDRICKS of Indiana, who has been a politician for years and years, occupies a back seat.

Mr. MCDONALD need not despair.

The only peril the Prince of WALES appears to have encountered on beginning his Irish journey in Dublin yesterday was from the fright of his horses at the noise and display made in his honor. Those Irishmen who disapprove of the Prince's visit have so far had the good sense to express their disapproval only by their silence. In truth, it would have done violence to the Irish reputation for generous politeness if any affront had been offered to the Prince when at his side sat the Princess of WALES dressed in Erin's green. Such a compliment to the colors of Ireland naturally captured the popular heart, and the royal journey may owe more of its safety than anybody can tell to this touch of womanly courtesy.

TO know BEECHER you must hear him speak.—*Brooklyn Union.*

Yes, one may know something about him by hearing him speak; but to know him thoroughly, it is necessary to study him in his works. The three octavo volumes of the TILTON-BEECHER trial, published in 1875, give instructive information about him that can be found nowhere else. But these volumes would be a heavy undertaking, and it will be enough to read BEECHER's own letters. They can be found in the first volume, and are full of picturesque and eloquent expressions. "To keep serene, as if I were not alarmed or disturbed; to be cheerful at home and among friends, when I was suffering the torments of the damned; to pass sleepless nights often, and yet to come up fresh and full for Sunday—all this may be talked about, but the real thing cannot be understood from the outside nor its wearing and grinding on the nervous system." "But I live on the sharp and ragged edge of anxiety, remorse, fear, despair, and yet to put on all the appearance of serenity and happiness cannot be endured much longer." "I ask THEODORE TILTON's forgiveness, and humble myself before him as I do before my God. He would have been a better man in my circumstances than I have been. I can ask nothing except that he will remember all the other breasts that would ache. I will not plead for myself. I even wish that I were dead."

To know BEECHER you must read his letters; and see the man.

Death of Richard Grant White.

A learned, accomplished, and fertile journalist and man of letters passed away yesterday in the death of Mr. Richard Grant White. He was only sixty-three years old, and succumbed to an illness which confined him for several months. Mr. White first gained public distinction as a musical critic in the *Courier and Enquirer*. He was subsequently attached to the staff of the *World*, the *Albion*, and the *Times*, and of late years he has been widely known as a writer on English topics, and especially as a critic of social and philological subjects. The news of his decease will be received with sincere sorrow by the wide circle of his friends and professional associates.

Trailing Arbutus—Found Everywhere.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: There grows in certain parts of New England a very early wild spring flower, called the Mayflower. It has white, pink-tinged blossoms, which are very fragrant, and grows chiefly in wooded or shaded localities. Is it found anywhere near New York city, and, if so, where can I find it?

NEW YORK, April 7. E. L. E.

DAS-OODE DODGE.

Bismarck Talma has already had time, since his return from the Hollenzer prison, to find out the true importance of the Anglo-Russian complication in Afghanistan. As an oracle, he says in his paper that if the Russians are not already marching upon Herat, it is solely due to the interference of Prince Bismarck. A statement is made in the latest number of the London News that that journal has positive information that the German Chancellor has declared to the Russian Government that in case of any hostilities occurring in Afghanistan Germany would mobilize herself at once to act in Europe as the pleases. He seems to have expressed his belief that a war in Afghanistan would of course bring about a conflict between the Slavonian and Teutonic populations in Europe, and probably a revival of the old Eastern question, and that necessary would not stand anything in the way.

Whether the information of Mr. Talma is entirely correct, may be questioned, but it certainly tends to support the theory of a general sense of the existing difficulty. There can be no question that in India everybody is for war as are also most of the Conservatives and the Liberals in England, but the Radicals to whom the friends of that ministry belonge and who are daily making amazing progress, are all in favor of peace. They argue that there is not the slightest use in arguing differences up for, with the exception of Switzerland (which is quite a different state of affairs, as "buffer" there has ever proved to be a success). Afghanistan is a part of the great mass of Slavonic and northern and the sooner its territory is divided between Russia and England the better it will be for the cause of the progress of civilization. It was an act of the highest iniquity to divide Poland, as Austria, Russia and Prussia did, for the country had a civilization, a language, a history and a literature of her own; but the division proved to be the best thing possible under the circumstances, for without it Europe would never have known peace, the Poles would have been fighting all the time with one or the other of their neighbors, and taking tribes from those that did not fight. If this is true in regard to Poland, how much more so must it be in regard to a savage region like the land of the Afghans?

The extraordinary in furnishing houses, developed of late years all over the world has naturally led to the appearance of specialists in that line. There are today in France and in England a few men without whose advice no piano of decorating a house are considered and no works of art are bought. They usually in society a position analogous to that of leaders of germans, coachmakers of horse fleet, or tailors of fair complexions. Count de Fontenevas and M. de Maubrisse are just now the greatest Parisian authorities on artistic furnishing. The latter gentleman seems to have just furnished for himself a mansion in Louis XIV. style reported to be a marvel of correctness. In fact the whole thing is so much Louis XIV. that visitors feel uncomfortable in it in modern dress. Without the advice of one of these high authorities not a piece of bric-a-brac, of furniture, of painting, or drapery is bought by the fashionable denizens of the Faubourg Saint-Germain. As a matter of course, this new tendency for consultation originated a new kind of business. The upstart rich, both French and foreign, who are unable to get the friendly assistance of the two above-mentioned fashionable celebrities, get some second-class authorities on the same subject. This sort of men perceived at once a way to make money out of the new fashion, and went to work accordingly, puffing their names and abilities in the social columns of the venal part of the daily press, and establishing a regular business of the *meubleur* or furnisher. Any ignorant rich man about to start a house, or to change one, gets a tip to secure the artistic advice of Monsieur So-and-So, and this Monsieur gets a big percentage from all the tradesmen he employs.

We have this kind of thing on a small and quiet scale in this country too. But the dealers here are too smart to pay any big commissions, as the competition in really artistic goods is very limited, and they have ample facilities to get at the principals themselves and avoid the advisory middleman. But there are many fashionably-dressed and mild-mannered men in New York who live exclusively on the favors of elderly and wealthy acquaintances, for whom they arrange demi-monde dinners and evening parties. Two or three of the great Wall street stars now departed for a better world are known to have made the fortune of several men who rendered them services of this nature.

It is a common coincidence that while both here and in England there are larger prizes and a larger number of horses engaged in racing than ever before, the outlook is by no means as bright as it should be. The trouble in this country is that betting may be stopped and thus prevent the large gate-money receipts of last season. In England the Soudanese war, which has removed from turf circles so many of the rising horse owners and plungers, and the threatened war in Afghanistan are having a serious effect upon racing affairs. The opening of the season at Lincoln and Liverpool was, however, very successful. Bendigo's victory in the Lincolnshire handicap, which is the first great race of the year, was most popular, and the public huzzaed for the three Bs as loudly as a schoolmaster could for the three Is, or an Irish patriot for the three Fs. The three Bs are Bendigo, Beer, and Barclay. The owner of Bendigo is Mr. Barclay, the principal member of the great firm which brews Bass's ale, and his victory was naturally dear to the stomach and to the purse of John Bull. There was quite a little excitement over the Duchess of Montrose's action in this race. The Duchess, as all racing men know, runs under the name of "Mr. Manton." She happened to be in the south of France, and her horses were under the management of Robert Peck, who scratched her horse Macheath at 4 P. M. on the Saturday before the race. His letter was not opened until 9 o'clock on Monday morning, and in the mean time the Duchess telegraphed revoking Peck's authority. The consequence was that Macheath started, and finished nowhere, and the famous confederacy is broken up. The Duchess is a woman of the peculiarly energetic type, and her conduct shows once more how unfit women are to be owners of race horses.

The passing of the dividend upon the Cunard steamship stock is the subject of a good deal of talk in business circles. It is well known that the engagements made for the spring and summer exodus are by no means as numerous as they have been for the last few years. There seems to be any amount of room on all the steamers advertised to sail during the next few months, although the best steamers have been withdrawn from the transatlantic service. The British Government have chartered some of the fastest boats, and are in negotiation to either charter or buy several others. This course of action is a godsend to the steamship companies, which are not only making nothing but running behind. Some misapprehension seems to exist here as to the power of the English Government to take the Cunarders. Under the original charter by which the Government granted a subsidy, they reserved the right to take any ship at a fair rate in time of war. This charter was afterward changed, and the Government have now to bid so many shillings a ton in the market. Of course, for ships like the Umbria or Oregon, the price is much higher than for a ship like the Lydian Monarch; but the principle is the same all round. The fast vessels which have been chartered are to be armed with ten or fifteen guns, and certainly from the fast time they have been making across the Atlantic, there is little danger of their being caught by Russian ironclads or privateers. It is a curious thing to see a great ship costing $1,750,000 anxious to accept a low rate from the Government because she cannot make enough to pay her running expenses in sailing between New York and Liverpool. Exactly the same thing is going on in France and Italy. French merchant steamers are only too glad to get a contract for China, and the Italian lines are delighted to take troops to the Red Sea.

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NEW CROWDS FOR THE DAYS.

WASHINGTON, April 8.—The opposition to Arthurism seems to have drawn substantial aid from a motive which would ordinarily excite interest, namely, the extraordinary changes in town building. The Board intrusted with the task of devising a new building for the national area has made its report, and while Secretary Vilas has not, there is good reason to believe, committed himself upon it, so that modifications are possible, the system is not so far advanced that changes of the ground and arrangements have been made and published.

These alterations would indicate the abandonment, or at least the modification of that time-honored act of economic expression right in the upper part, and expressed more in the street, continuing to a certain degree even the street which has marked Jack Tar for generations, not only in war, but also and especially in another direction like "Black-Eyed Susan." In these days as the street building operations proceed and sections of the old buildings are torn up, there will be a chance to see the "Arthur" improvements, the street being made wide, there is an expression of a desire to let the sunshine and air into the crowd of wretched dwellings, and perhaps offenders the Department may yet worth to Hippo (as those that might be in by no means) the Department of Justice, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Labor, the Department of Public Works, the Department of Public Parks, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Public Morals, the Department of Public Education, the Department of Public Charities, the Department of Public Correction, the Department of Public Amusements, the Department of Public Sewers, the Department of Public Sewers, the Department of Public Sewers