# THE CITY'S NEW BOSS.

## Mayor Strong the Wiliest of Local Politicians.

## A DEEP POLITICAL GAME.

### Is New York About to Have a Jimmy O'Brien Police Department?

**Truth About the Causes of the Election of Col. Strong and the Unfounded Claims of the Committee of Seventy—The March Col. Strong Stole with the Help of His Friend Jimmy O'Brien—The Firm of O'Brien & Strong Not to Be Dissolved Now—Moral of the Mayor's Appointments—Shall the Republican Party in This State Become a Tender to the Ohio Machine?—Danger in a Single-headed Police Commission—Philosophy Indeed.**

There is good reason to believe that if Col. Strong or any other citizen of responsible character had been run on a straight ticket by the Republican organization, pure and simple, he would have been elected. The reason for this conclusion, as one cause, was that the administration of public affairs at the seat of Government had produced widespread dissatisfaction and disaster, and the popular current was coursing swiftly and deeply against the Democracy.

At the beginning of our financial troubles, when it was evident that, the cause continuing, the condition would of necessity become alarmingly aggravated, the Administration could have easily averted the threatened evils by promptly and courageously doing that which was eventually done. But Mr. Cleveland, unable to appreciate the situation, regarded the evidences of approaching disaster with the fixed and smug complacency of the lacquered god of the heathen, and Congress was callous to consequences. Mr. Cleveland said "the country needed an object lesson." That lesson duly arrived, but the object proved to be a mass of impervious incompetency in the Presidential chair. Every closed mill, every abandoned mine, every deserted store, and every unemployed laborer was an irrepressible agent working unceasingly for the undoing of the party in power.

The turning of the tide and its strength were manifested powerfully at the opening of the political season in the Congressional district of Thomas B. Reed in Maine. No more intensely representative and aggressive Republican was or is to be found in public life than this gentleman, and yet on the sole issue of the incapity of Cleveland and Congress, the majority of Mr. Reed was augmented from 1,600 to over 8,000. There was no Committee of 70 in that. That lesson was repeated with more or less telling evidence of the general public sentiment throughout the country until in New York there was a practical change of over 100,000 votes.

There was no failure in this city of evidences of the general political revulsion. Then the local causes affecting public opinion were of the most momentous and exciting character. The disclosures of the Lexow committee and weakening divisions in Tammany Hall caused a virtual surrender of the local political field. The misfortune of the local Democracy at this crisis was that they controlled every department of the Government, and in the result were made responsible for the condition of affairs which so deeply aroused the interests as well as the sentiment of the community.

Tammany Hall became the sole objective point of attack. That time-honored and so long powerful organization was practically put in a condition of general siege. We are not justifying the widespread hostility which prevailed against the acknowledged party citadel of the city Government—much that was laid at its door was unjustifiable. But such results are inevitable in the heat and hurry of political revolutions. The time had, however, come for the overthrow of Tammany Hall, as all could realize who were capable of reading the broadly emblazoned signs of the times. The people were seeking the opportunity to concentrate their votes where they would tell to that one end wholly and exclusively. Mere questions of organization or petty issues of leaderships were not felt to the extent of a feather's weight. If Col. Strong had stood on a Republican nomination, on the single and simple platform of municipal reform, the controlling balance of power in the popular vote would have inevitably been drawn to him as the only candidate having the probability of success.

The prepared voters had nowhere else to go. Suppose Grace or his man Scott had been nominated to set up their little machine and maintain their peddling and piddling notions of representation in a State Convention, the vote thus diverted would not have been worth counting. That was not the purpose of the people at this crucial period. The tendency to concentrate the vote effectively in a time of popular agitation was shown in the Henry George campaign. Mr. George was the candidate of the labor union organizations, and it was considered by the conservative majority of our citizens undesirable that these combinations and the walking delegate should, in effect, control this municipality. Although Mr. George drew his vote largely from the laboring element of Tammany Hall, Mr. Hewitt, the candidate of the Wigwam, presented the most reasonable prospect of an election, and a large Republican vote deserted Theodore Roosevelt, the party condidate, and elected Mr. Hewitt. There was no Committee of 70 in that making of a channel for the tide.

Now the late Commitee of 70, or rather the present perpetual committee of that organization, take credit to themselves for having accomplished everything in the late overwhelming result, and on the strength of that assumption claim to speak with the voice of potent and infallible command. They are deceiving themselves; the people know better.

The motive and movement which produced the overthrow were of the people and by the people, and neither the Committee of 70 nor any body of citizens could have prevented the casting of the controlling majority of the votes, at that time, against Tammany Hall. The Committee of 70 were not a cause in the municipal overthrow. The cause, the motive, and the movement existed independently of them. The voting masses, it may be disappointing to say it, would have found their way at that time, as they had before, to have their votes record their will, if the Committee of 70 had never raised their golden head. The committee were but flies on the wheel.

Now, we do not wish to be misunderstood in this matter. The gentlemen of the Committee of 70 are a highly respectable body of citizens, with substantial interests and laudable motives. They are generally past the middle age, solid in appearance, and impressive in manner. They are of the gilt-edged, prosperous class of the community accustomed to high-toned command and capitalistic deference in the private station. They are unquestioned autocrats in their little circle—and much should be conceded to the spirit engendered by the habit of obsequious submission of hired surroundings. They are, to a degree, entitled to all the distinction claimed for them or to which they, with justifiable pride, feel themselves entitled above the common people. But are they not overmuch assuming and arrogant in this "Committee of 70" business, the novices among them, as usual, being the most pronounced in their previousness and haughty hectoring? Is it not going too far to question the integrity and seek to degrade all who differ from them on public questions? Have the representatives of the people no rights which these eminent gentlemen are bound to respect? Threats do not always coerce recusants; they sometimes breed independence and defiance, and the intimidation of the conventional "mass meeting" too often employed may lose its force as an influential inspector.

Col. Strong is the supreme and responsible product of the municipal overturning. He has become invested with an authority which appears to give him substantial gratification to administer, albeit he does it sometimes with the unctuous caprice of a Great Mogul. But he must not be mistaken; he is the wiliest local politician of his time, and he is playing his cards for all they are worth in a palpable political game. He and his friends stole a march on the Republican Nominating Convention last year and practically secured his nomination before the politicians had opened their eyes and begun their canvas for a candidate. Jimmy O'Brien has told to his bread-and-butter brigade pretty often how he and the Colonel met so frequently in the hot summer months in the seclusion of the Central Bank, putting their heads together, and laying out the campaign.

The veracity of this historical account has not been disputed. It was O'Brien and Strong then, and O'Brien does not mean that his quondam partner shall take down the sign when the dividend is due. The Colonel, it appears, was to cautiously contrive to seize the interior of the Republican fortress, while O'Brien and his supernumeraries were to flourish on the outside, apparently in hostile array, until the moment when their surrender to Col. Strong's supreme fitness as the popular candidate could be turned to the best account. So when Great Scott announced that under no circumstance would the opposition forces unite on a Republican, O'Brien's timely acquiescence in and adherence to Strong was an effective and settling piece of theatrical byplay.

Some things in all the present municipal muddle, however, are very clear. One of these is that Col. Strong's stock in trade was the Republican nomination, and when the plan so secretly and ably engineered resulted in that consummation, his political fortune was made. He was the only candidate with a powerfully organized party at his back. It was inevitable, if he remained in the field, that all who were in earnest in the reform movement must support him.

Mr. Strong was not a man of much prominence prior to the Republican machine turning him out as its candidate. He had the fortunate foundation of being an Ohio man, he had prospered in the dry goods trade, and was trying his hand in financiering. He was a social or complimentary "Colonel," without a military record or soldierly service, and was certainly without a popular following. Every atom of his existence, as a factor in the reform movement, came from the regular Republican organization when it made him its candidate.

The reform movement of necessity took him as the only available candidate for success. It was the one and only thing to do. Now that he is elected, he has kicked away the ladder of the regular Republican organization, but he does not appear to have forgotten the cunning by which he compassed its control. The only man who has outgeneralled him thus far is William Rowdedow Grace—but thereby hangs a tale.

It would be an undeserved reflection on his intelligence to say that Mayor Strong does not know the consequences of his acts. He was elected on a non-partisan platform—which appears to mean double-plated partisanship in dealing with the opposing political parties. He has sought to build up a dividing faction in the Democratic party of this city by conferring influential patronage on Mr. Grace. Grace is a practical politician; there is little sentimentalism inside of his every-day apparel. If Strong shall make Grace powerful enough to be the nucleus for a reorganization, he will thus put the local Democracy on their feet again; at all events Grace will be strong enough for general political trading, on the give-and-take principle.

On the Republican side, Strong is encamped within the ranks of the factious Republican minority, and all his efforts are directed to overthrow the regular organization of his party and its defined majority. Will he succeed? The game is interesting.

When he appointed Brookfield to the office commanding the valuable patronage of the city Government at the moment of his defeat for the control of the Republican organization, in the very heat of the struggle in which he was worsted, Mayor Strong had a distinctly obvious purpose to stiffen his forces. So all along the line of his appointments the motive bears the same trade mark. The recent alliance with the Hon. James J. Belden on the basis of the Dock Department means political business. The attitude of Senator Stapleton is sufficiently significant. The struggle over the Police bill and otherwise is obviously for more powerful party agency in material of war. We are not surprised to discover that our astute Mayor has made a breach in his party at the State capital and imperilled the passage of the bill for the reform of the Police Department. It is pretty palpable that there is a scare at the capital. But if the Republican representatives there lose head and heart at this critical time in view of the intimidatory tactics of our crafty Mayor and his allies, and flunk at their posts, is it not evident that the Republican party in the State will become a mere tender to the Ohio machine?

Failure at such a time and in such a case will be very deplorable and very destructive. If the bill is right in itself, it ought to be passed, and extraordinary efforts should be made to overcome the defection. If that cannot be accomplished our Democratic friends might profitably play the good Samaritan and reach out to the relief of the afflicted. It will help to give two sides to a very pretty fight as it stands. At all events, the bill should be considered on its merits, irrespective of the factional struggle in the Republican ranks, and every Democrat should vote accordingly.

A single-headed control of the police force of this city, with all its ramifications of influence in responsive hands, would be an invaluable acquisition to the leadership and party mastery of this city. We hear much of the claimed promise to appoint Jimmy O'Brien Police Commissioner. Jimmy himself has said it. He has the promise; and it is averred, without denial or dispute even, the appointment, in black and white, is in his vest pocket. He is only smoothing out some of the wrinkles in his record to make the job easier when he's to take his seat, in full view of this community, as one of the heads of the most important department of our reformed commonwealth. This, too, as a representative of the Democratic party, in a bi-partisan point of view.

Jimmy has been a political soldier of fortune for many years, and he has taken every reasonable chance in the battle of life. It appears that the hour of his triumph is at hand. Is he, also, the representative specimen of what we may expect under a single-headed Commission? There is one satisfaction in the prospect: when we get Jimmy in power we know what we have got. He has not hidden his light under a bushel.

Is the mass meeting of the Committee of 70 for this evening to be in the interest of the O'Brien movement? Col. Strong, from his early summer cogitations and concerted concoctions with O'Brien behind the scenes and the full fruition of their deeply-laid plans, knows the value of O'Brien as a personal pawn on the board; and it is very evident that O'Brien is not to be trifled with by any evasion of cheek by jowl pledges.

On the whole, however, looking over the entire field with serious thought, does it not very clearly appear that the Republican organization caught a Tartar in Col. Strong when it gave him its capital to set him up in business as a candidate for the Mayoralty? Is he not using the success thus obtained as a personal power to distract and divide the party for an evident ulterior and alien purpose? How many such successes can the G. O. P. in this State stand?

As men and parties are constituted, is there any safety in the exercise of the all-pervading power of the Police Department in the directing hands of one imperial master, be he Democrat, Republican, or political hermaphrodite, or otherwise, except in a Commission of high-minded men representing the two great political parties, fairly and equally, who will keep each other in check and faithfully guard the vital trust from abuse?

But finally, before all other questions, the paramount one remains, are we to have an O'Brien Police Department, as an educational experience, before we reach the expected reform millennium?

**"Pike's Peak or Bust!" Puzzle.**

Are you good at puzzles? Here's a good one:—Adv.

# NO GLOOM IN THE DRAMA.

### THE THEATRICAL STARS SHINE BRIGHTLY IN LENT.

**Mr. Frohman Replies Hotly to Mr. Crane's Severe Strictures—Stock Casts and Special Casts—A Notable Charity Matinee—Sketches of Some Vaudeville Entertainers**

A fine entertainment was given yesterday afternoon at Abbey's Theatre for the benefit of the New York Infirmary for Women and Children and the Woman's Medical College. Although the prices reached $3 for a parquet chair, the house was crowded. Things in the programme already familiar at our theatres were "Romeo's First Love" and "White Roses," with casts from Hoyt's and the Lyceum. "Afterthoughts" had Agnes Booth-Schoeffel, and "A Happy Pair" had Lillie Langtry. Recitations by Gabrielle Réjane and J. E. Dodson and singing by Camille D'Arville, N. M. Halfpenny, Mayme Kelso, and the Ladies' Quartet helped to fill the time from 2 o'clock until 5:30.

The number and grade of "star" actors now in town are much above the average. Richard Mansfield is going through a week of seven plays at as many performances at the Harlem Opera House. These pieces have all been operative in his repertory during the season, and so he and his company are ready in them, but it is nevertheless, a notable achievement to change the bill every evening and at the Saturday matinée. Cora Urquhart Potter and Lillie Langtry are on view respectively in "Charlotte Corday" at the Herald Square and "Gossip" at Palmer's. William H. Crane is upholding legitimate comedy in "His Wife's Father" at the Fifth Avenue. Camille D'Arville is an exponent of comic opera at the Bijou. James Connor Roach is continuing in "Rory of the Hill" at the Academy of Music, Denman Thompson in "The Old Homestead" at the Star, and William Gillette in "Too Much Johnson" at the Standard. Cissy Fitzgerald, who has been ill, will reappear to-night in "The Foundling" at Hoyt's, with her wink and her dance in good order. Gabrielle Réjane will act twice more in "Sapho" at Abbey's and then bring out "Divorçons."

The single week's visitors include James T. Powers, in "The New Boy," at the American; William Hoey, in "The Flams," at the Fourteenth Street; Ward and Vokes, in "A Run on the Bank," at the Columbus, and Thomas Q. Seabrooke, in "The Grand Vizier" and "The Isle of Champagne," at the Columbia. Other plays that are with us until Saturday night only are "The Cotton King," at the People's, and "The Derby Winner," at the Grand Opera House.

The Empire's stock company is devoting its abilities to "John-a-Dreams," the Lyceum's to "An Ideal Husband," and Daly's to "Nancy and Company." Souvenirs marked the 200th time of "Little Christopher" at the Garden on Monday, and next week the burlesque will be transferred to Palmer's. "Madame Sans Gene" is nearing its end at the Broadway.

The moral quality of the dramas recently brought from London was discussed by William H. Crane in a published interview with a SUN reporter. As several of these assailed plays have been conspicuous at the Empire Theatre, a call was made upon Charles Frohman yesterday for his views of Mr. Crane's views. "It is very difficult," he said, "to answer Mr. Crane's opinions, because they come from a man who has made a large enough fortune to give complacent advice to actors and managers who have still their fortunes to make. Of course, he can refuse to act in any play that does not suit him, because he can afford not to act at all, but his counsel to actors as to the kinds of plays in which they should not appear is about as valuable as would be Joseph Jefferson's, who is rich enough to act only twelve weeks in every season, if he were to advise actors not to play any more than he does, because their health and their art would be very much improved if they rested as much as he. It is all very amusing coming from Mr. Crane, because he made his reputation acting in a lot of French farces of a kind with 'Forbidden Fruit' and 'Champagne and Oysters,' which I would not put into my theatre. One of the most disgusting things I ever saw on the stage was the scene in 'The Merry Wives of Windsor,' as Mr. Crane produced it at the Star Theatre last fall, after *Sir John* has been thrown into the river. Then there was a scene in 'The Pacific Mail,' where he was supposed to be seasick, that was as indelicate as anything could be. There was not much talk last autumn, when Mr. Crane was acting at the Star, about whether he would or would not act, and he was perfectly willing to jump from Shakespeare into riotous farce like 'The Pacific Mail.' As to his acting only in American plays, the piece he is playing now is German, and probably the author in Berlin is not getting a cent for it. 'The Pacific Mail' was Tom Taylor's 'Overland Route.' The scene of the seasickness in that piece was indescribably vulgar, and I would not allow such a thing on the stage of the Empire. But Mr. Crane's advice comes from a man whose point of view is influenced by a comfortable accumulation of stocks and bonds, and its application to actors and managers in general is very slight."

The relative values of stock companies and special casts was the subject on which the reporter had been sent to Mr. Frohman. The views of A. M. Palmer had been given lately, upon the disbandment by that manager of his familiar organization, and the topic is one upon which close observers of the theatre differ. "The difficulty in discussing the comparative superiority of a stock company over what is called a specially selected cast for the production of a play is that the former now means something entirely different from what it was formerly. It does not mean twenty people engaged to produce all sorts of plays, adapting themselves to the characters of the author's piece, but it carries with it the idea of a thoroughly equipped theatre, adapted in every particular to present in the most thorough manner every effect that an author has in mind in writing his work. It is only in a theatre devoted permanently to one company of players that this can be accomplished. In producing a drama in what is called an outside theatre, the manager is not able to depend on having the resources of the house entirely at his disposal. The attraction which is playing there may be a burlesque, while he is producing a serious drama. The current piece will require the stage for rehearsals, and its system of lighting and its scenic effect will be entirely different from those required for the forthcoming production. So the possibility of making the presentation of the new piece complete by having entire control of the theatre's facilities is out of the manager's reach. Now, what we consider the perfection of pieces as they are produced at the Empire depends on a good deal more than the acting of the player. There are other elements which go to make up a performance. Here the heads of all our departments are the best of their kind, and they are continually employed in developing resources. Our property men are electricians, our gasmen are all in permanent control of their work, and they can attend to these details in a manner which would be impossible in a theatre which had not become better equipped in such resources by repeated productions and which was not entirely given over to the control of experienced employees. We claim that our company is as different in the organization of its actors from the old stock company as that expression has so long been understood. We consider our main strength first in our leading man and woman, who are not players that can act only the leading sentimental and heroic parts. Henry Miller we consider equally good in character rôles, as his performances in 'Sowing the Wind' and 'Gudgeons,' while in 'John-a-Dreams' we see how well he can play a lover. Miss Viola Allen proves her ability as an emotional actress in the same play, and she showed in the first act of 'The Masqueraders' how well she could act comedy. The versatility of our leading actors makes them equal to whatever parts may fall to them. Back of these two actors we have a force of nearly three hundred on our list; consequently we are never compelled to ask an author to plan his play with a view to the company at the Empire, but we are always able to find actors in our employ who can fit the author's parts.

"There are nineteen companies now acting under my management, and whether they are sent out to play in the big cities or in the small towns the idea always is to have them better than those that go there with any other company. Now, the thought in the minds of all these players is, 'When will we get to the Empire?' That is the ambition they all have in view, and wherever they are acting I know just what the quality of their work is. When an author brings me a play with a part that seems fitted to one of them, the actor is brought to the Empire, and there is scarcely a member of the company that has not proven his capability for it by his work in one of my travelling companies. Whether they are graduates of dramatic schools or inexperienced beginners, they get their first opportunities in travelling companies, and these make up a reserve force of a large number of actors who can be brought to the Empire when they have shown that they are capable of acting in my city theatre and are adapted to the character in a new work that is brought to me. I don't believe there is any theatre in the world that has such a number of actors to draw on, and managers who are making up special productions are constantly coming to me for players. An author has the resources of all these actors and of the trained force of people connected with the theatre that are never seen by the public, but contribute very importantly to the success of a production. My musical director, Mr. First, endeavors to get the music best suited to the playwright's purpose, and he is able to experiment for his effects with all the mechanical resources of the theatre. Henry Guy Carleton is writing a play for the theatre for next season. There are certain effects in it on which my electricians have been working since last winter, and they have not yet gotten just what they want. The panorama scene in 'John-a-Dreams' was rehearsed three weeks, and it does not last longer than a minute, but such a result is worth the trouble, for it not only adds to the reputation of the theatre, but equips it with further resources for subsequent productions. We take as much pains in the matter of costuming, and already have made arrangements for securing certain patterns and colors for the women's gowns, which we expect to prove as great a surprise and to secure as much praise as those worn in 'The Masqueraders.'

"The actors in a stock company are thrown together much more than those engaged in a selected cast. They can cover each other's shortcomings, suggest to each other effects in dress, acting, and make-up, and while they are acting in one play can be preparing for what is to follow. My leading actors are in my confidence, and when I have a play well enough advanced they read their parts with me, and when one of my actors is brought into the Empire from a travelling company he is made familiar with the work and the people with whom he is to appear. I am willing to say very frankly that I could not secure the effects and results which we accomplish at this theatre if I were to dismiss the actors engaged in a running play and secure new ones. I also think that a theatre which confines itself to a certain number of actors, casting all its plays from them, would no longer prove equal to the productions demanded to-day. But a stock theatre, as I understand it, is something very different from a stock company, and that means a house adapted by experienced workers in control of the best facilities, and a company of actors large enough to give appropriate representatives to every play."

Several of the single entertainers this week are novel. Fannie Leslie is announced in Koster & Bial's programme as "England's Queen of Burlesque." She proves to be a character balladist of somewhat greater ability than the average of that sort of entertainers who hail from London's music halls. Her face reminds of Fougere's, though it is fuller, and her mouth is even larger. The costumes for her three songs are a velvet and silk dress of vivid green and yellow, well supplied with ornamental buckles; a very ragged suit of boy's clothing, and a suit of green tights and bodice, at first hidden by draperies, which are whisked off and handed to a stage hand while the performer is in sight. An eccentric dance follows that is very graceful for the most part, but is made to include several "cartwheels." While she sings two of her ditties it is a good time to try to think of something else, but her third number is sure to linger as a reminder of her one week's stay. It gives the sentiments of the ragamuffin who has seen "living pictures," and he compares the scenes portrayed with those actually enacted in homes like his own. Thus, in the tableau entitled "Jealousy" he deplores the lack of the signs of the green-eyed monster that show when his sister's feelings are aroused; and in the picture called "The Doctor" he notes that the sufferer has every comfort that can be provided, and recalls the distressful circumstances of sickness of his relatives and friends. Such a novelty in melancholy ditties should be welcomed by audiences that go into raptures over not too tuneful recitals of criminals' woes and gory battlefields.

The old-timer in minstrelsy, Billy Emerson, who began, more than thirty years ago, with Newcomb's minstrels, is now at the Union Square Theatre. He is still on the sunny side of the half century mark in life's journey, but to most folk he seems much older, for he was a very young man when he put on the burnt cork. Of late years he has lived in San Francisco. At Keith's he steps before the audience in the character of a colored sporting man, and sings a song descriptive of what he would do if he could win a large pile of cash. He wouldn't dine on pork and beans, but would live very high. He is a high-stepping team, and be a philanthropist. His voice is as good as ever, and his manner on the stage has undergone no change. He gives an imitation of the way the manager of a boxing match once made an announcement that one of the pugilists had been seized with sudden illness and could not appear. This is followed by Mr. Emerson's description of a reception at the residence of a venerable Irish gentleman. The venerable host sings for the amusement of the company. In the rendition of an Irish song the minstrel is almost as much at home as he is in the impersonation of negro character. He does not make a specialty of dancing nor of very broad burlesque, and there is an assumed seriousness in his words and manner that makes the people laugh. Mr. Emerson was amused when he was told that some New Yorkers doubted that he was the original Billy.

"I'm the original," he said, "and if my old-time friends will see me when my face is not blackened they can have no difficulty in recognizing me. I am not quite fifty, and I hope to remain on the stage until I'm an old man."

A new thing in Nellie Gauthony's programme at the Eden Musée is "Outward Bound," and in it she displays her powers of mimicry and song. Her ladylike manner and the care which she takes in avoiding coarseness or overdoing are evident in "Outward Bound." This details incidents of a sea voyage. She makes the audience laugh by her description of the preparations for her departure. Then there is a comical misunderstanding between herself and the steamship steward, which is followed by imitations of the ways and manners of the passengers. There is an old lady who is greatly distressed by the loss of her luggage. The old lady describes the way in which it "turned up missing" when it had almost reached the steamship. Miss Gauthony's mimicry is well shown in her impersonations of the people at table, and her first meeting with a Mr. Howard is funny. Among the passengers are Mr. Gibbs and his wife and daughter. Mr. Gibbs has difficulty in getting to sleep. His wife sings a lullaby to him. The lullaby is accompanied by a snoring obligato by the husband. There was much laughter when Miss Gauthony showed how a young lady was captivated by a nap in her steamer chair on deck. Some of the passengers propose a concert for the organ fund. There is difficulty in obtaining performers for the concert. Opportunity is afforded for impersonating Mr. Jones in the singing of "Good Old Steward," and a passenger who entertains the company with a plantation song. In the plantation song Miss Gauthony gives an excellent rendition of the Southern negro dialect of the old time. Her imitation of the playing of the banjo is wonderful. She gives the metallic "plunk-a-plunk" with such a realistic effect that her hearers can easily imagine that they are listening to a real banjo instead of to a human voice. The plantation song is perhaps the best feature of the "concert on shipboard."

The vaudevilles are generally lively. The coolness and steadiness of the three Eugenes in their aerial gymnastics at Proctor's is almost enough to assure watchers of their complete safety, but a net is demanded by the law, and so the spreading of one across the auditorium, just above the heads of the audience, becomes a part of the show. J. Aldrich Libbey, the De Forests, and the Macs are among the newly employed ones here.

Twelve English performers, in their second week in New York, and eight specialists selected from the home ranks, furnish the entertainment at Pastor's. Sells and Young, and Haines and Pettingill are, respectively, the leaders of each lot.

Jacobs's Third Avenue is to be numbered among the variety theatres this week, as it is visited by an organization headed by Webber and Fields. James F. Hoey, Lottie Gilson, John E. Drew, Le Clair and Leslie, McIntyre and Heath, and Falke and Seamon are also listed.

Montgomery Irving, Nazarras, and James F. Doyle are the new comers at the Casino. Constanz and Ida, the Carpos and Spadoni, and Agnes are conspicuous among the hold-overs.

May Howard's name is made the trade mark of the company that holds Miner's Eighth Avenue. She is assisted by a corps of dancers, and by specialists whom Harry Morris heads.

Sam Devere is sure of a welcome at Miner's Bowery, and it is shared this time by Omene, Sam Barnard, Evans and Vidocq, and others.

Snake charmers, expert rifle shots, and bouncing women acrobats can hope only for second place at Huber's Museum as long as the women bicyclists keep a-tumbling. The end of their speeding is not yet in sight.

At Koster & Bial's the Rossows have changed their specialty by substituting a boxing bout for their wrestling contest, and they make a very amusing "mill." At the end of each round two six-foot stage attendants enter the ring and act as seconds for the contestants. Each woe face is damped with a sponge so big as to completely hide it, and clothes are used vigorously as fans. Then the bout goes on to a comic and harmless knockout. Chale Loftus is announced as in her last week here, but her recalls are many and enthusiastic. Her budget of imitations no longer includes that of Yvette Guilbert, though there are nightly loud calls of "Guilbert!" from her hearers. The managers of this concert hall have reason to know that Oscar Hammerstein, to whom the famous French singer is contracted to appear here, is capable of advertising himself sufficiently.

**More of the "Snap Shot" Exhibition.**

The "Snap Shots" exhibition of travesty and caricature at the American Art Galleries in West Twenty-third street has proved such a success that instead of closing to-day, as was intended, it will be continued through the week. It is the first public exhibition of the kind ever given, and in view of the interest manifested in it, it is likely to be made an annual affair. Many of the pictures have been sold, those of the mock historic school bringing the best prices. The receipts of the exhibition go to the West Side Day Nursery.

JAPANESE ART OBJECTS.
YAMANAKA & CO.
of Osaka, well known to travellers as the largest dealers in works of art and antiquities in Japan, have opened a branch in New York at No. 20 West 27th st., for the sale of the highest grades. The attention of collectors is respectfully called to this fact.

### MR. MONROE AND HIS DOCTRINE.

**The Living Principle of American Policy on This Hemisphere.**

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The peremptory demand, in the nature of an ultimatum, made by Great Britain upon the republic of Nicaragua for punitive damages for the expulsion from Bluefields of Mr. Hatch, the alleged British Vice-Consul, and the further demand that the claims of Hatch and other British subjects, for alleged personal damages, shall be submitted to a mixed commission, bring pointedly into notice the declaration of President James Monroe, in his annual message to Congress on Dec. 2, 1823, which is popularly known as the Monroe doctrine.

A significant fact in the British demand is the limited time given in which to pay the sum arbitrarily fixed by way of punishment, coupled with the declaration that the individual claims of British subjects, growing out of the Bluefields affair, shall be submitted to a mixed commission of three, one to be appointed by Nicaragua, one by Great Britain, and the two Commissioners to select a third, who is "not to be a citizen of any American republic."

It is understood that the Nicaragua Government denies that Mr. Hatch held any official station whatever at Bluefields, or that he was recognized in any official capacity or received an exequatur.

It is hardly credible that Nicaragua would make such a denial were it not true, because, if Mr. Hatch had been recognized in any consular capacity, his exequatur, if he had one, as well as the official gazette announcing it, would both be proof of the fact.

It may, therefore, reasonably be assumed that the British Ministry has taken this step for some ulterior object, because no principle of ex-territoriality attaches to the person of an actual or acting consular officer, which would prevent his expulsion from the territory of a sovereign State in a proper case.

In the session of Congress just closed a bill barely failed to pass which would have given to the United States preponderating ownership and control of the proposed interoceanic ship canal across Nicaragua, precisely as Great Britain has in the Suez Canal.

Nicaragua is known to be in no situation to meet the peremptory demand now made, and if the right to make it is a valid one, the seizure and retention of the site of the canal route, or contiguous, dominating territory as an indemnity, would also be justifiable.

It becomes, therefore, important to consider the duty and obligation of the United States, if any, under the Monroe doctrine to this feeble but autonomous Central American republic.

While our traditionary policy has been to avoid interference in, or alliances concerning, European affairs, Americans have always longed for a distinctive, consistent, and energetic, but conciliatory, policy in American affairs.

President Monroe struck the keynote in his message of 1823, and any Administration which will vigorously pursue to its legitimate conclusion the policy then announced may be sure of the united support of Americans irrespective of political affiliations.

Before President Monroe put forth his famous declaration he wrote to ex-President Thomas Jefferson for his views.

That sturdy Democrat replied on Oct. 24, 1823, and said:

"Our first maxim should be never to entangle ourselves in the broils of Europe; our second, *never to suffer Europe to intermeddle with Cisatlantic affairs.*"

At that time, Russia, Prussia, Austria, and France had united in what was termed the Holy Alliance to put down conspiracies against established powers, consecrated rights, and social order, and the practical result was an armed combination against every attempt at constitutional government in Europe.

In carrying out the terms of the alliance, movements in Naples and Piedmont for free Constitutions were put down, while a French army entered Spain to overthrow the constitutional Cortez and restore to absolute power the despotic Ferdinand VII.

All the Central and South American Spanish colonies had then declared themselves independent and had organized Governments republican in form.

It was believed that the Holy Alliance would, in due season, undertake, by force, to suppress them and restore Spanish domination.

President Monroe undertook, therefore, in language diplomatic and courteous, but unmistakable, to express the sentiments of the American people. He said:

"In the wars of European powers, in matters relating to themselves, we have never taken any part, nor does it comport with our policy so to do. It is only when our rights are invaded or seriously menaced that we resent injuries or make preparations for our defence. With the movements on this hemisphere we are, of necessity, more immediately connected, and by causes which must be obvious to all enlightened and impartial observers. The political system of the allied powers is essentially different in this respect from that of America. This difference proceeds from that which exists in their respective Governments. And to the defence of our own, which has been achieved by the loss of so much blood and treasure, and matured by the wisdom of our most enlightened citizens, and under which we have enjoyed an unexampled felicity, the whole nation is devoted.

"We owe it, therefore, to candor and to the amicable relations existing between the United States and those powers to declare that we should consider any attempt on their part to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our safety.

"With the existing colonies or dependencies of any European power we have not interfered, and shall not interfere. But with Governments who have declared their independence and maintained it, and whose independency we have, on great consideration and on just principles acknowledged, *we could not view any interposition for the purpose of oppressing them* or controlling in any other manner their destiny by any European power in any other light than as the manifestation of an unfriendly disposition toward the United States."

This message was decisive. There was no interference by the Alliance, and the Spanish-American republics became independent.

Our declaration that we could not view any interposition for the purpose of oppressing them as otherwise than unfriendly to the United States has never been withdrawn.

The obligation is as binding to-day as when it was made in 1823.

A powerful foreign Government may oppress a feeble Central American State—and thus acquire dominion over it—in many ways.

Thus, on such a pretext as Great Britain advances for punitive damages, it may, on failure to comply, seize the Custom Houses at ports of entry and, by sequestrating their revenues, destroy the ability of the State to retain and pay its public servants.

President Polk, in his annual message to Congress on Dec. 2, 1845, after quoting from the Monroe doctrine, said:

"In the existing circumstances of the world the present is deemed a proper occasion to reiterate and reaffirm the principle avowed by Mr. Monroe, and to state my cordial concurrence in its wisdom and sound policy. Existing rights of every European nation should be respected; but it is due alike to our safety and our interests * * * that it should be distinctly announced to the world as our settled policy that no future European colony or domination shall, with our consent, be planted or established on any part of the North American continent."

These utterances of Presidents Jefferson, Monroe, and Polk were the enunciation of sound national, Democratic principles.

Casuists in the old Whig party tried to whittle away the meaning of the Monroe doctrine because it had been stated impersonally and in courteous diplomatic language.

The plain American people, however, being always Democratic in their instincts, have understood just what it meant.

The British Ministry, notwithstanding the denials of Nicaragua as to the status and claims of Mr. Hatch, seem determined that that feeble republic shall be oppressed by punitive damages for doing what she insists she had a right to do, but are willing to refer the other cause to arbitration.

The distinction made between the two is highly significant.

If it is proper to arbitrate in one case it is in another.

A claim to punish is not, however, susceptible of arbitration and is a *casus belli.*

One pretext for oppression is as good as another, and it remains to be seen how the Administration at Washington will act in this contingency.

If the Monroe doctrine continues to be a living principle of American international policy on this hemisphere, now would seem to be a good time to assert it. A. B. G.

NEW YORK, March 26.

### PHŒBE COUZINS'S STORY.

**Friends of the Late Ex-Senator Fair Say It Is False.**

SAN FRANCISCO, March 26.—Friends and relatives of the late ex-Senator Fair denounce as nonsensical the story of Phœbe Couzins that he came to his death by poison administered by persons who would benefit by his death taking place at a certain time. Miss Couzins's assertion that she was betrothed to Fair is also declared to be false.

### MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

MINIATURE ALMANAC—THIS DAY.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sun rises.... | 5 53 | Sun sets.... | 6 19 |
| Moon sets.. | 7 51 | | |

HIGH WATER—THIS DAY.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sandy Hook. | 8 20 | Gov.Island. | 8 35 |
| Hell Gate.. | 10 24 | | |

**Arrived**—TUESDAY, March 26.

Ss Noordland, Grant, Antwerp.
Ss Kaiser Wilhelm II., Stormer, Naples.
Ss Alecto, Marshall, London.
Ss Mohawk, Wiltshire, London.
Ss State of California, Ross, Glasgow.
Ss Egyptian Prince, Dunbar, Rio Janeiro.
Ss Orinoco, Fraser, Bermuda.
Ss Geo. W. Clyde, Johnson, Turk's Island.
Ss Knickerbocker, Halsey, New Orleans.
Ss El Sol, Mason, New Orleans.
Ss Necoochee, Smith, Savannah.
Ss Jamestown, Hughers, Norfolk.
Ss Nueces, Risk, Galveston.
Ship H. P. Grace, De Winter, San Francisco.
(For later arrivals see First Page.)

ARRIVED OUT.

Ss La Touraine, from New York, at Tunis.
Ss Island, from New York, at Stettin.
Ss Broomhaugh, from New York, at Lisbon.
Ss Cuffe, from New York, at Liverpool.
Ss Croft, from New York, at Dundee.
Ss Palomyn, from New York, at Buenos Ayres.
Ss Alamo, from New York, at Galveston.
Ss Croatan, from New York, at Wilmington, N. C.

SHIFTED.

Ss Manhanset, from New York for Bristol, off Brow Head.
Ss Northern Light, from New York for Dover, off the Lizard.
Ss Persia, from New York for Hamburg, passed the Lizard.

SAILED FROM FOREIGN PORTS.

Ss Fuerst Bismarck, from Genoa for New York.
Ss Neckar, from Naples for New York.
Ss Glenshiel, from Cochin for New York.

SAILED FROM DOMESTIC PORTS.

Ss City of Augusta, from Savannah for New York.
Ss Comal, from Boston for New York.

OUTGOING STEAMSHIPS.

*Sail To-day.*

| | Mails Close. | Vessel Sails. |
|---|---|---|
| Paris, Southampton | 8:00 A. M. | 11:00 A. M. |
| Westernland, Antwerp | 2:00 P. M. | 4:00 P. M. |
| Majestic, Liverpool | 1:00 P. M. | 5:30 P. M. |
| Saratoga, Havana | 1:00 P. M. | 3:00 P. M. |
| Titania, Porto Rico | 10:00 A. M. | 12:00 M. |
| Cimbria, Norway | 1:00 P. M. | 3:00 P. M. |
| Cherokee, Charleston | ..... | 3:00 P. M. |
| Comal, Galveston | ..... | 3:00 P. M. |

*Sail To-morrow.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Normannia, Hamburg | 8:00 A. M. | 11:00 A. M. |
| Orinoco, Bermuda | 1:00 P. M. | 3:00 P. M. |
| Niagara, Nassau | 1:00 P. M. | 3:00 P. M. |
| El Dorado, New Orleans | ..... | 3:00 P. M. |

INCOMING STEAMSHIPS.

*Due To-day.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Marathon | Gibraltar | March 4 |
| Caribbee | St. Croix | March 15 