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Volume XVII. No. 146. AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

- BOVEY THEATRE, Bovey-Corban Brothers-The Bovey-Douglas. BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway-Lola Montes-in Davaria-Lobby Ticket. NIBLO'S GARDEN-PERFECTION-CATARINA-LA BAY-ROBERTY LE DIABLE. BURTON'S THEATRE, Chambers street-LAUGH WHEN YOU CAN-MURPHY-NERVOUS MAN. NATIONAL THEATRE, Chatham street-CARPENTER AND BOVEY-CATTLE STEAKS-COARSE HARLEQUIN-BROTHERS. LYCUM THEATRE, Broadway-MY LITTLE ADOPTED FOLLIES OF A NIGHT-PRINCE HARBERT. ASTOR PLACE OF THE HOUSE-CORBAN BROTHERS. AMERICAN MUSEUM-AMUSING PERFORMANCES IN THE AFTERNOON AND EVENING. CHRISTY'S OPERA HOUSE-NORCO MISTAKE BY SHAW'S COMPANY. WOOD'S MINSTRELS, Wood's Musical Hall, 444 Broadway-STRIPTEASE MINSTRELS.

DOUBLE SHEET. New York, Wednesday, May 20, 1852.

The News.

The politicians are in a most wonderful state of excitement and trepidation—more especially the democrats, some of whom appear to be in an extraordinarily agonizing predicament. No matter, the whig locomotive has likewise got the steam up to a pretty high notch, and, in a few days, we may expect to find the water flaming in the rusty boiler—then look out for an explosion. The delegates to the Democratic National Convention are beginning to flock into Baltimore, and the friends of Mr. Buchanan are quite busily employed in Washington, in endeavoring to secure his nomination. A meeting of the committee appointed to support the nomination of Secretary Webster was held last night, as will be seen by the report in another column. The slim attendance was accounted for by the chairman's assertion that the friends of Mr. W. were "empowered by circumstances of a political nature." By the way, the honored Secretary will probably be in the city this morning. Cannot he admiters get up a revival? Wall street ought to take the lead, and turn out a strong torchlight procession to-night, similar to those formerly practised by the Empire Club. Such a proceeding would astonish everybody, and set the whole city to talking. The report of the sub-committee appointed by the Young Men's Democratic Republican General Committee, on the subject of the corruption and violence at primary elections, which will be found in another column, is worthy of attention. Horace Greeley having heard of what this committee had in contemplation, borrowed their thunder, and anticipated them, by publishing an article on the same subject, and recommending the change to the whig party. Will either of the parties dare to adopt it? We shall see.

But while the people, or rather the political portion of them, are thus troubled about the action of the nominating conventions, our Congressmen sit themselves, as will be seen by the proceedings of yesterday in the House of Representatives. Mr. Bayly, Virginia democrat, made a strong speech in favor of the Fugitive Slave law, and against any attempt to repeal it. He considered this law essentially necessary to carry out one of the provisions of the constitution. Mr. Carter, Ohio democrat, opposed the ground assumed by Mr. B., and was especially averse to incorporating the compromise measures into the party creed. This political clatter will probably be kept up by the democratic members till Tuesday next; after that a row will commence among the whigs, that will last for a couple of weeks longer. A great number of petitions were presented in the Senate yesterday, asking for the enactment of the free farm bill. If attention is to be paid to these petitions, would it not be as well to make a few inquiries concerning the character of their signers? It is hardly probable that one truly industrious, sober and sane person in one thousand, would favor this unjust and unlawful scheme, which would be a direct and wholesale violation of the stipulations through which the government became possessed of the lands from some seven of the old States. The Senate yesterday passed the bill to relinquish to Iowa the Salt Springs in that State, and engaged the bill for the construction of certain plank roads. Several amendments to the deficiency bill of \$110,000, for a balance due to those friendly Creek Indians who assisted our troops during the war of 1812, was rejected. An unsuccessful attempt was made in the House to have a national vessel placed in the vicinity of Australia, for the accommodation of the Irish exiled patriots, when they are liberated. It is hardly probable that a national ship will ever again be sent out for the benefit of the liberated patriots of foreign countries—the Kosuth affair on board the Mississippi killed off that kind of business. The Senate bill concerning settlers on the Menominee lands, was reported to the House, (with amendment,) that settlers shall have the right of pre-emption to all the unsurveyed public lands. The House passed bills for the benefit of invalid and naval pensioners, &c.

According to our telegraphic report, the abolitionists were in a blaze of glory at the meeting of the New England Anti-Slavery Society, in Boston, yesterday. Abby Kelly opened the ball with a tectotal pirouette, in her peculiar style. She is of the opinion that the Maine law will do much towards propagating abolition principles. Loyd Garrison followed, in a tirade against the annexation of Cuba and Mexico, and particularly against the churches generally, and against Daniel Webster especially. Abby Kelly's husband, S. S. Foster, then took the stand, and was very indignant at his Satanic majesty for having enrolled Judges Story and Woodbury under his banner. No doubt Mr. F. will reimburse such company, by backing out from King Satan's household. Mr. Webster was compared to Judas Iscariot and Benedict Arnold, and the debate proceeded in this strain throughout. Read the report—it will be found rich and amusing.

The movements of Gen. Flores in Ecuador, have alarmed the Venezuelan government. Our Porto Cabello correspondent of the 24 inst., says that President Monagas has sent a message to Congress, similar in tone and spirit to that of President Lopez to the Congress of New Grenada. It is a virtual declaration of war against Flores, if he succeeds in his design on Ecuador. It is clearly seen that the present governments of New Granada and Venezuela anticipate the intentions of Gen. Flores and his party, and are making preparations accordingly. The Post Office report, given in another column, is an interesting document. It embraces the operations of the department for one year, showing the number of letters mailed, the cost of transportation, the number of ship letters transmitted, &c.,

It gives the public some idea of the immense correspondence annually carried on in this country. We elsewhere publish Judge Johnson's decision against the constitutionality of the canal law. This document will be attentively read by all who take an interest in the legislative history of this State. In the Board of Assistant Aldermen, a message was received, on Monday evening, from the Mayor, returning the report and resolution in favor of granting \$200000 a lease for ten years, at the rate of twenty thousand dollars yearly, of the slip at the foot of Wall street, with a ferry privilege, for the purpose of establishing a ferry to Brooklyn. The reasons which induced him to withhold his approval from this measure, will be found in the official report elsewhere. The document was laid on the table, and ordered to be printed. The steamers to bring the next news from California and other parts of the Pacific, are the Northern Light, Crescent City, and Empire City. The agents of the Northern Light cannot tell when she will be due from San Juan. The Crescent City, from Apinwall, is expected on the 1st or 2d, of the Empire City, with the mails, on the 5th or 6th of the next month. The Cambria is the steamer due this week from Liverpool. She will bring six days later news from Europe. We may expect to hear of her arrival at Halifax to-day or to-morrow.

Mr. Scott's Letter to the Democratic Candidates.—The Turning Point of the Campaign. Once upon a time there was a celebrated backwoodsman, known as Captain John Scott. His rifle, when levelled by his unfailing eye, was inevitable death to the "varmint" singled out as his victim. The tip of a bear's ear in the thickest chapparal, or the glimpse of a squirrel's tail in the top of the loftiest hickory, was enough for him. He fired, and the animal invariably fell. The terror of his name extended far and wide through the woods, till it became as much the dread of the Indians and wild beasts, as it was the admiration of the white settlements. One day, while sauntering through the forest, he espied an old coon endeavoring to hide himself from inspection by dodging round the topmost branches of a tree at least one hundred and fifty feet high. But it was of no use. The inexorable sharpshooter brought his deadly rifle to bear upon him, when the sagacious old coon hung on to his flag of truce, and demanded a parley. "Is that you, Captain Scott?" "Yes, sir." "Captain John Scott?" "Yes, that's my name." "Well, don't shoot, captain—I'll come down." It is an old story; but it has a most admirable application to the case in hand.

The infallible rifle of Captain John Scott never more completely covered the mark than does the letter of Captain Robert G. Scott, of Virginia, addressed to the democratic candidates, individually, on the finality of the Fugitive Slave law. It meets the issue exactly—it admits of no dodging—it leaves not a loop-hole of escape. It reduces the question to this practical text:—Will you, if elected President, maintain unimpaired the provisions of the Fugitive Slave law, even to the extremity of vetoing any act of Congress which may be passed during your administration, which shall weaken or repeal the effect and intent of the provisions of that law? This is exactly to the point—it anticipates the designs of the Northern agitators—it meets them upon the threshold, and requires of every man aspiring to the White House that he shall show his hand—whether he is for peace or war—for good faith or treachery—for the constitution or the higher law—for the Union or disunion.

It has recently been given out that, after Gen. Scott shall have been nominated by the Whig National Convention, he will define his position on the compromise measures. We presume, from his extraordinary precaution thus far, against any commitment on the Fugitive law, that the position which has been prescribed for him is this:—That he believes, in the lump, that the compromise measures have happily allayed the dangerous excitement which existed between the two sections; that these measures, including the Fugitive Slave law, are the laws of the land, and that, as such, if elected President, he will, according to his constitutional oath see that the said laws are "faithfully executed." Now, we apprehend that this, or something like this, is the dodge intended for General Scott, not before, but after, he shall have received the whig nomination. The dodge, too, is quite plausible. What more can you ask of the President on this fugitive question than that he will see the law "faithfully executed." If he does that, what are his private opinions to us, that we should attempt to choke them out of him? Surely, for the sake of harmony in the whig party, and for the sake of the spoils, (fifty millions a year,) you cannot demand anything more of General Scott than a faithful execution of the law. This pledge would, doubtless, prove to be satisfactory to the whig party, with the democrats occupying similar ground. And to conciliate the Van Buren and other available anti-slavery elements of the North, there was reason to fear that the Democratic Convention would go no further; and that thus the most critical and vital issue which has agitated the country for the past thirty years, would be left wide open for agitation, modification and repeal, and for the consequent revival, to tenfold bitterness, of the late perilous excitement between the two sections of the Union. It very often happens that the greatest discoveries are the results of the most trivial accidents, and that the simplest plan of overcoming a great obstacle escapes the scrutiny of wisdom, and science, and persevering inquiry, for years, until some lucky genius hits upon the secret by accident or intuition. The sublime theory of the laws of gravitation was thus owe to the falling of an apple upon the head of Sir Isaac Newton—the application of steam to machinery is thus attributable to the accidental observation of Watt of the force of the jet from a tea-kettle; and the idea that the East Indies could be reached by sailing due west, gave a new world to Spain and the Pope, but ultimately to the Anglo-Saxon race. It is also related that when Columbus, on one occasion, was seated at dinner with a number of wise old fogies, they taunted him by saying that the discovery of America was no surprising matter, after all—it was so large that he couldn't miss it. Columbus asked them to set an egg upon either end on the table. They could not do it. He then took one, and tapping it with the shell was broken sufficiently to form a good foothold, it stood plumb and firm. Any of them could do it after that; but the wonder is they did not find out sooner. So with this letter of the immortal Captain Robert G. Scott. It covers the case exactly—it meets the issue precisely; yet it is as simple as the secret of making an egg stand upright; and the wonder is, nobody thought of it before. Captain Scott brings General Scott down from the tree as quietly and quickly as his great ancestor did the coon of the forest.

This hit is the more surprising when we consult the precedents upon this question of slavery, for questioning Presidential candidates in advance of their nomination. It was upon his pledge of "inflexible hostility" to the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, by act of Congress, that Martin Van Buren was elected in 1836; General Harrison was elected upon some such pledge in 1840; in 1844 Mr. Clay and Martin Van Buren both gave their opinions in writing, on the Texas question, months in advance of the national convention of either party. Mr. Polk, too, in endorsing the resolution of the democratic convention, in favor of the annexation of Texas, joined the issue distinctly, and was elected. In 1848 General Taylor was elected without pledges; but he was a minority President, and slipped in between Cass and Van Buren. No whig candidate can expect such a streak of luck in 1852. It will be a ruinous venture to try the same trick over again with General Scott. The Fugitive law demands a simple yes or no. Will you stand by the law, or by the agitators? Speak out, like a man. Now, we verily believe that some good Union

whig will be found bold enough and honest enough to put Captain Scott's questions to General Scott—and not only to Scott, but to Webster and Fillmore—some whig whose general character and reputation will call for a reply. We have no faith in the Whig Convention. Seward holds the majority there, between his finger and thumb. But we do verily believe that some good and distinguished Union whig will put the Scott letter to Scott and his two rivals, and that they will answer it, in some way or other, before or after the Whig Convention. We do not, however, believe that General Scott will come up to the mark. He will probably say, if he says anything, that he must judge of the legislation of Congress as it transpires—that he cannot undertake to restrict the freedom of the legislative department, by pronouncing any veto in advance of its action—that the constitutional reservation of the veto was intended to follow, and not to precede, the action of the two houses. But all such equivocations will be tantamount to taking sides against the rigid maintenance of the Fugitive law, whatever policy he may be persuaded to attempt, his position must be either for the agitators or for the law.

The democratic candidate will take the field pledged to maintain inviolate this compact between the North and the South—this constitutional compact, if you please. Assuming, on the other hand, that Gen. Scott will be put forward without any satisfactory declaration, either for him or by him, on the veto question, what will be the result? Possibly, in their mad fury, all the abolition cliques and co-teries of the North, of all stripes and shades and colors, may rally upon Scott, and, together with those whigs of feeble principles, more intent upon plunder than anything else, they may possibly effect him. Such an event would be the signal for secession and disunion, for there would be no longer any safety to the South in the Union. The only escape for the South from Northern incendiaries and servile insurrections—the only hope of safety, with their social institutions, their property, and their lives—will then be, in good season to leave the Union, whatever may be the known or unknown hazards of that desperate extremity. On the other hand, if the Union men of all parties, of the North, shall make the compromise candidate their man, against the combined forces of the higher law, then Seward and his abolition allies will be crushed, and effectually crushed, in the coming election, for the next twenty years.

Now, where is the Castle Garden Union Safety Committee? What are the real intentions of the Fillmore and Webster compromise men of this State, and of other Northern States, in the event of the nomination of Gen. Scott without a platform—a visible and self-supporting platform on the fugitive question? Are they for principles, or are they for plunder? Are they quite ready to join the anti-slavery cliques, and to rally the power of the North to their utmost exertions, against the constitutional rights, the social institutions, and the domestic peace of the South? Are they willing, after all their late professions, to connive at any Seward dodge that may be attempted at Baltimore? We have our misgivings that they are. But, above all, are the Southern Union whigs disposed to be a party to such a game? We trust not. They, at least, can no longer evade the clear and simple issue made out upon the finality of the Fugitive Slave law.

We repeat, that the thanks of the country are due to Mr. Robert G. Scott, of Virginia, for his simple and efficient plan of bringing out the democratic candidates upon this fugitive question. It falls like the shock of a galvanic battery upon the Seward party in these latitudes. Let the Democratic Convention follow it up, and let us have a fair fight between the constitution and the higher law.

A NEW AND CURIOUS PHASE OF THE ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.—There are many curious phases of anti-slavery that never see the light. It is only now and then that we happen on a shining place. We stumbled by chance upon one, in recently reporting the proceedings of the Anti-Slavery Society; and the case of William Johnson, reported in the HERALD yesterday, who was sentenced, in the United States District Court, to State prison, for three years, for passing counterfeit money, is another rich vein in the abolition gold mine. The convict was secretary to the Vigilance Committee of the Anti-Slavery Society. He was an English emigrant, or represented himself to be so. He joined the church, and becoming exceedingly pious, qualified himself for the office he so admirably filled. He soon became distinguished for his zeal, dexterity, and success, in sending fugitive slaves, by "the underground railroad," to Canada. But while engaged in this holy vocation, he combined with it another of an earthly nature, for which his calling before he became a saint eminently qualified him. He was a silversmith; and while engaged in stealing the property of others, he concluded he would turn his old trade to account in counterfeiting money, and employed the fugitive slaves to pass it off on route to Canada, but chiefly among the green Britishers, as soon as the slaves crossed the line. He has been engaged in this profitable and thriving business for a length of time. He has sent away probably one hundred slaves, and has passed through their agency some \$50,000 of base coin—receiving from the Anti-Slavery Society good money, and giving the fugitives that description of money—for which he was indicted, tried, convicted, and sentenced to the State prison. The best of the joke is, that the greater portion of it has been circulated among the anti-slavery zealots in Canada. We would advise our readers there to have a sharp look out for the purity of all silver that passes through black hands in future. Johnson is not the only worthy connected with this lawless organization, set on foot to subvert the constitution of the United States. There are other individuals, as holy and respectable and adroit as he, who are now engaged in the same pious fraud. He has been caught—his turn is to come next. Johnson was not only a sanctified man, and a man of good character, but he was able to prove it on the trial. He was sworn to be a highly religious man; and so he was, as religion goes. There are many very like him—he is but the type of a class.

There is one melancholy result that will flow from this denunciation. The convict was a warm supporter of the Tribune, and furnished it with all the information that appeared in its columns in relation to the operations of the underground railroad. Of course, during his sojourn in duress vile, the Tribune will be without that intelligence—an omission which will be very lamentable for the reader. There is, however, one hope. It will be recollected that Governor Hunt a very short time since considerably released the slave of Mr. Thomas two days before his imprisonment expired at Sing Sing, under a sentence for larceny, in order that he might escape to Canada. It is possible that if the anti-slavery men exert themselves, the sentence of Johnson may be remitted by General Scott, when he is President of the United States, not two days before its expiration, but two years, and perhaps more; and, shedding a shower of crocodile tears of repentance for the past, the culprit may be taken into favor once more, and, like Lola Montes with the saints of Boston, stand higher than ever in the estimation of the brethren, black, white, and gray. In that event, he will again have peculiar access to the traffic of the underground railroad, and he can despatch bulletins of all the particulars to Greeley. Meantime, we would suggest that, after the example of the pious and famous Dr. Dodd, who was hanged in England for the perpetration of forgery in order to raise money for charitable purposes, he write a series of letters under the title of "Prison Thoughts," and furnish these lucubrations, as he indites them, to the abolition journals, and when they are concluded, let him print them in pamphlet form at the office of the Evening Post, and have it circulated by the news agents, and colporteurs of the Anti-Slavery Society, for the good of the cause; or,

by mixing up a little fiction with it and working it into a novel, he might send it to the pious Harpers, who would bring it out with illustrations. It might, perhaps, become as popular as "My Uncle Tom's Cabin," by Mrs. Beecher Stowe, and as lucrative a speculation as sewing itself.

THE OPERATION OF THE MAINE LIQUOR LAW IN NEW ENGLAND.—The Maine Liquor law having now passed, both in the States of Rhode Island and Massachusetts, it becomes a matter of public interest to inquire what the effect of its operation will be, and what classes will suffer most by it. Those who have invested their capital in its manufacture, and wholesale and retail dealers, with the hosts of men in their employment, and the farmers who furnished the raw materials for the production of fermented and distilled liquors, will all sustain less, more or less, by the change. Moderate drinkers, who, following the direction of St. Paul, "took a little wine (brandy, rum, or other stimulating drink)," will suffer in their health; while a very large class will be deprived of their accustomed enjoyment of a "drink" at the bar room, or their wine at dinner, or the convivial glass around the domestic hearth. This class, perhaps, will not, on the whole, sustain any positive loss in health, or money, or property, by the withdrawal of those liquors in which they indulged to a limited extent, and without any injury to their constitutions; but being used to the indulgence, and as a most arbitrary and tyrannical interference with their personal rights and liberties. They will feel that it is too bad, because one per cent of the population make beasts of themselves by intemperance, the ninety-nine should suffer inconvenience, or be subjected to restraint, particularly as drunkenness is a sort of half moral, half physical disease; and if deprived of the intoxicating medium in one form, must have it in another—the reformed drunkards, picked out of the gutter, either dying of like rotten sheep for want of the charm of "the hair of the mad dog that bit them," or gratifying their insatiable craving for stimulants in the use of opium or some other drug more deadly in its effects than even brandy or rum taken to excess. This large class of moderate drinkers will not pull very smoothly in the teetotal harness forced upon them by the fanatics.

Again: Men of every class, except the infatuated teetotalers, have been in the habit of taking brandy in this climate, under certain circumstances, as a preventive of disease and death. In regions where fever and ague abound, it is a specific, and infallibly drives off the disease if taken when the first chill is coming on. In the intense heat of summer, men who are exposed to the sun in outdoor employment, often fall victims to the ignorance and imprudence of drinking cold water while their blood is at fever heat. The admixture of a little brandy, whiskey, or rum with the ice water, obviates the danger. All these and other advantages of the moderate use of fermented and distilled liquors, are swept away by this new law, without any compensating advantage arising from the innovation.

Lastly, the watering places of Massachusetts and Rhode Island will be utterly ruined by the Maine law. The classes who frequent these haunts may be divided into two—invalids, and those who go for pleasure. The first often find it necessary to take something stronger than water to sustain their sinking frames, and the second, "going in" for enjoyment, must have it, by hook or by crook. Both classes will, therefore, eschew Cape Cod, Nahant, Plymouth, Lynn, and above all, Newport—once the resort of the gay and the fashionable, but henceforth doomed to be deserted like "a city of the dead." In future, the visitors will betake themselves to the watering places of the States of New York and New Jersey—Saratoga, Niagara Falls, West Point, Lake George, New Lebanon Springs, Sharon Springs, Litchfield Springs, Cape May, Keyport, Long Branch, Schooley's Mountains, Fort Hamilton, Bath, Coneley Island, Flushing, Glen Cove, and a number of other places on the two shores of Long Island.

Already the people of Newport are preparing for a general breaking up. The wholesale houses are selling out, because whatever liquors are found on their premises when the law comes into effect, will be confiscated; and the root beer and sarsaparilla men, and the manufacturers and vendors of various drugs more poisonous than "Jersey lightning," "blue ruin," or any such plain, simple drink, are on the qui vive, ready to make hay while the sun shines, and take the spare dollars and cents of the former customers of the rum shops. In a single number of a Newport paper, we find the following curious advertisements:—

MAINE LAW.—Be it remembered that the right of terror, slave-headed and tyranny, sanctioned by the congested wisdom of our masters, is to commence in Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, on Monday, July 19, 1852. We therefore, in consideration of the high respect which we entertain for our numerous customers—including a large portion of the worthy and considerate Sons and Daughters of Temperance—we have the pleasure to inform them that we have on hand an extensive and choice selection of pure liquors and delicious wines, "worthy of praise," and suitable for all the various purposes for which they are used—medical, mechanical, artistic, convivial, &c.—which we shall continue to sell until it becomes a criminal offence, at low prices. We quantities and packages to suit the requirements of all sensible people for twelve months. We pledge the most strict secrecy to all friends of the Maine law, who can purchase of us in large quantities, with perfect confidence, that they need not apprehend a plethora of friends and suckers during the famine. All respectable poor people of this town, whose consciences are now rendered with this more ridiculous "humbug," shall have their wants supplied "without money and without price" two days before liberty is surrendered to justice. Fanaticism, hypocrisy, selfishness, and vinegar-faced reformers, in the glorious land, where naught but holy freedom, cheerfulness, and generosity should dwell. "Can such things be?" Newport, May 18, 1852.

NEW ENGLAND BROTHERS.—The subscriber is now prepared to supply, as usual, hotels, storekeepers and private families, with bottled soda water, root beer, and sarsaparilla meal, a healthful and invigorating beverage, free from all stimulating ingredients, and in perfect compliance with the Maine law. All orders left at the subscriber's will be punctually supplied every morning from our wagon.

RIDER'S, 171 Thames street. DR. LANGLEY'S root and herb bitters, just received and warranted, fresh and genuine, by R. B. HAZARD & CO. Apothecaries, Hall.

GREEN'S celebrated oxygenated bitters, a sure cure for dyspepsia, asthma and general debility—a fresh supply of this day received, by R. B. HAZARD, Agent, next north of post office.

The next thing we shall have to record in relation to Newport, is a list of advertisements of "hotels to let," which will be taken, if at all, at a very reduced rent, and probably turned into manufactories of oxygenated bitters, sarsaparilla, root beer, and soda water. There will be, hereafter, a complete social revolution among the watering places, hotels, railroads, and public places of resort in the two States of Rhode Island and Massachusetts, caused entirely by the tyranny of the new Liquor Law.

RAILROAD MOVEMENT OF THE DAY.—The progress of constructing and opening railroads in this country, at this moment, is of the most extraordinary character, and is without a parallel in any country, except a similar movement in England a few years ago. On the day before yesterday, a vote was taken by the people of Albany, for the purpose of pledging their credit, to the amount of a million of dollars, in order to raise money for the assistance of one of the lateral railroads leading into Pennsylvania; and the question was decided in the affirmative, by an immense majority of the people—a majority of nearly five thousand. The city of Albany has dealt out its credit, on former occasions, for similar works of internal improvement; and the liberality with which, in the present instance, its inhabitants went to the polls and voted in favor of a fresh debt, is only an evidence of the extraordinary momentum which is now urging the public mind and the public instincts in favor of all sorts of works of internal improvement, but particularly of railroads.

Formerly, State credit was alone brought out in support of the construction of canals and railroads; but during the last two or three years, cities, towns, and counties, in all the central and middle States, have freely granted their credit for large sums of

money, in aid of railroads connected with their particular localities and interests. It is calculated that nearly two hundred towns, cities, and counties in New England, New York, Ohio, and other western States, have, during the last twelve or eighteen months, raised, in different sums of money, an amount equal to forty or fifty millions of dollars, in the shape of bonds sold in the market, for the purpose of aiding and assisting in these railroad enterprises. And yet this vast movement is only in its commencement. New England, at this moment, is nearly covered with a web of railroads in all directions. New York is rapidly following in the same course. Pennsylvania, Ohio, and the Western States, are running the race as hard and rapidly as they can receive the money for city, county, and town bonds, in the shape of bonds sold in the market at any and at every price. According to the most moderate estimates, the whole amount of capital which has been already raised for the construction of canal works in the United States, probably approximates nearer to four hundred millions of dollars than to any other sum.

We have said that this movement is only in its commencement. It certainly is only beginning to attract the notice of the other classes of the community, and particularly of all those who will have to pay, ultimately, the interest and capital of these disbursements. The increase of these enterprises—the vast extent of the line—the rivalry sometimes between lines and rivers and lakes—evidently prove that although many of the railroads now in process of construction, will be hereafter valuable property, yet numbers of them will be utterly useless as investments for money, and will end in ruin to the stockholders and bondholders who are involved in them. These railroad enterprises, of all kinds, undoubtedly add much to the value of the property in the country through which they run—probably more than the amount originally expended in the roads themselves;—but the stockholders, and sometimes the bondholders, by whose enterprise and credit, and capital, the roads are constructed, are very frequently the losers, and the other classes become the recipients of the benefits and profits of the line. The indiscriminate rush of the present day, in favor of all railroad enterprises, resembles, in a great degree, the mania of a similar kind which prevailed in England a few years ago, and which ended in a terrible railroad convulsion, the effects of which are felt in that country to this day. We must expect that the same mania will produce, to some extent, the same consequences here; but the time is not yet come, nor is the fruit ripe, for a decided revulsion in these matters. This country has prospered of late years beyond former periods of its history; the seasons are generous, the mines of California are abundant, our foreign and domestic commerce increasing, our population augmenting every year, both in the natural way and by emigration; and the sources of our prosperity are the most remarkable in their character that ever were before exhibited in the history of the world. These elements of success may prevent or delay a very aggravated species of revulsion in the railroad, or any other mania of the day. But nothing can prevent a too great expansion, in any particular line of business, from creating a reaction of some kind, sooner or later. So look out in time.

INSIDE PHILOSOPHY AND "ISMS."—We published yesterday a report of the somewhat remarkable proceedings of a clique of infidel philosophers, who are in the habit of meeting in a public room in the city, every Sabbath evening, and there discussing and enunciating ideas on religion, infidelity, agrarianism, socialism, Rochester knockings, and all the equally interesting "isms" of which the present time is so productive. The subject for last Sabbath was "Man and his Destiny;" and the lecturer and prominent debater on the occasion was a pretty, round lady, of a certain age, named Mrs. Fanny Lee Townsend. She took care to state explicitly, for the benefit of her auditory, that her mind was not cramped by any of the popular superstitions of the age, as to future existence, human responsibility, Christ, or his religion; but was, in fact, an infidel in the widest sense of the term; and further, was one of the lights of the socialist community who claim the right to appropriate to themselves the public lands. She brought down the authority of Moses and Christ to sanction her own sentiments on that head. The latter she denominated as a "land reformer," who had directed the people to gather what they wanted. She did not want a "home eternal in the heavens;" but she wanted one here, and should have it. Neither did she care about the hell of the next world, though she did about the hell of this. Her only Bible appeared to be the Tribune. The only prophet, or evangelist, in whose incoherencies she had full faith, was the Hon. Horace Greeley, and we might add, judging from the exhibition she made of herself, that "folly's all they've taught her."

The lecture room in which these edifying doctrines were propounded, has been for several months back an academy, or temple, attended every Sabbath afternoon by some half hundred men and boys, and used for the inculcation of infidel notions of all kinds, and the propagating of "isms" of all descriptions throughout the city and country. It is now about twenty-five years since the first attempts were openly made, in this city, to establish journals devoted to infidel philosophy; and the progress of that movement has had many variations and many phases since that time till the present day. At first, such attempts created nothing but disgust and horror in the mind of the rest of the community, in all quarters of the country, but particularly in New England, which was then considered the headquarters of the good, sound, old-fashioned religion of the Bible. Of late years, however, it seems that a great change has taken place among large masses of society, as well in New England as in New York, and some places further south and west. Journals of large circulation have been established, pretending to all the virtues and morality of the day, which, under the specious guise of inculcating all sorts of pure philosophy and morals, have been sapping and undermining the religious notions of the people, introducing a new code of morality of the most atrocious kind, and expunging all those ancient ideas of honesty, propriety, and virtue, through the influence of which, mankind has been brought to the high state of civilization in which we live. Those destructive principles are disguised under various appellations, and appeal to different sentiments of the human mind. Rationalism, transcendentalism, socialism, Fourierism, abolitionism, Rochester knockings, spiritual communications, agrarianism, teetotalism, Bloomerism, woman's rights, and all those ultralisms which pervade society at the present day, are all so many efforts to attain the same end, namely, the subversion of true Christian principles, and the infidelizing of society. But the aiders and abettors of this iniquitous scheme are not confined to the laity, but, perhaps unconsciously, the clergy themselves are in the foremost ranks of those who besige the strongholds of morality and religion. It is generally considered that one half of the Protestant clergy of New England and New York are deeply infected with the transcendentalism, philosophy, and socialist notions of the day—an infidelity in the shape more of a German than of a French origin.

These new religious class Moses, Mahomet, Confucius, Aristotle, Christ, and his Apostles, in the same category, and look on them as entitled to no more respect or consideration than themselves. Most of these religious infidels, as they may be called, who apply the term Messiah to Kosuth, on his first appearance here, consider themselves each, in his own circle, a sort of Messiah of the same kind. Even the women who are concerned in this scheme of social revolution, make some strange and false movements against all the pure, simple and respectable doctrines of Christianity, as taught for centuries, and are, sometimes, the most violent, most ultra, and most outrageous in their sentiments, as is evinced by the doctrines put forth by such visionaries as Mrs. Townsend. If these philosophers are to be considered the precursors of the millennium, we have no desire to hurry on the advent of that "good time coming."

THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT AND THE SPANISH PRESS.—By the last accounts from Europe, we perceive that the Spanish government in Madrid have determined to suppress entirely the *Diario de la Marina*, published in Havana, and to withhold the subvention given to the *Cronica* in this city. We suppose, if the Spanish Ministry could effect it, they would stop the *Cronica* here, too; but not having authority in New York, they can only withhold their money, which they think will operate the same as suppression by the censorship.

The reason given for this singular policy towards these journals is, that they have been so violent in respect to the Cuban question, and particularly so severe on the United States, its government, its citizens, its press, and its all. Now, we have a word to say on this point. What policy is there in the Spanish government showing so much sensitiveness to the management of these two Spanish journals, when the American government, people, and press, are perfectly satisfied with them? We always like to read the tirades and amusing pieces of violence in both these journals, and we should miss them very much on our exchange list if the one should be suspended in Havana, and the other be forced to give up the ghost for want of provender in New York. The Spanish government miscalculates and misunderstands this country. The violence of these journals towards the United States never produced a single ripple, and hardly a single reply. They served as mirrors, useful in their day and generation, in which we could see whether our conduct was right or wrong by the violence of their attacks and the peculiarity of their commentaries. We hope and trust, therefore, that the Spanish government will recall its decree against both these journals, and allow them to go on in the usual way. We cannot afford to part with them so easily.

The truth of the matter is, we suspect, that the Spanish government has been taking into consideration the position, destiny, and security of Cuba; and that—under the good sense and influence of Queen Christina, who is considered the owner of that island—who are preparing the way to dispose of the gem of the Antilles to the United States, at eighty or a hundred millions of dollars, or as much as they can get. They want to smooth the way to a good bargain, and are doing everything for that purpose to conciliate the good feeling of the American people, and draw forth a high price from the American government. The sudden removal of General Concha—the arrival of a new Governor in Cuba—the suppression or disapproval both of the *Diario de la Marina* and the *Cronica*—hitherto so very savage against the American people and government—are all parts of the same grand scheme, instigated by Queen Christina, for the purpose of getting the best price for Cuba at an early day. That beautiful diplomatist has found out that she can make more money by selling the island than by the reverse she could hope to receive from it hereafter. She has a number of very fine young daughters, who want large fortunes; and the sale of the island to the United States, for a hundred millions of dollars, would enable her to marry them off to some of the princes and royal bloods of Europe, with great éclat and splendor.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TEN GOVERNORS.—We have received, at last, a copy of the long and long expected annual report of the Governors of the Alms-house. After all the preparation and all the delay, we look in vain for any elucidation of the points we submitted to the attention of the board in relation to expenditure—the vastly increased expense of each inmate—the tremendous increase of salaries, and the shocking increase of brandy and wine in the hospital under the teetotal regime. The report, though making a large volume of words and figures, is so dark upon these and other points, on which information is very desirable, that we are forcibly reminded of the saying of Talleyrand—that language was given to man to conceal his thoughts. We may, however, take an early opportunity of supplying a few notes and comments, which will have the effect of throwing light upon the whole subject—as well upon things unreported, as upon those that have been given to the public in such a mysterious manner as only to make the "darkness visible." Meantime, let us be thankful for the few items of real intelligence furnished in the report, which are like two or three grains of wheat in a bushel of chaff—which must be all winnowed to find them—or half a dozen grains of gold in a mass of quartz rock, which requires the operation of the crushing machine to extract them from the rubbish.

We learn, then, that within the year ending 31st December, 1851, there have been admitted to the institution 2,783 persons; that 2,335 have been discharged, and 203 have died. The number in the institution on the 31st December, 1850, was 1,304; the number now therein is 1,349, and the average number supported has been 1,186. The net expenses for the year amount to \$30,881. The whole number of persons admitted during the year was 2,783. The total discharged was 2,335. Of the number admitted there were of, of

ENGLAND..... 170
SCOTLAND..... 80
GERMANY..... 114
OTHER COUNTRIES..... 81

Total..... 2,779

It will be thus seen that more than three-fourths of the whole number supported in this institution are born in foreign countries, and probably three-fourths of the natives are children of foreign parents who have died or abandoned their offspring.

The Turf.

USERS COVERED, L. I.—TOTTING.—A most capital trotting race yesterday afternoon, at Tottling, on the turf. For a purse and stake of \$500, which was won by the mare after five closely contested heats; and taking into consideration the number of races which she has been engaged in, and the various places she has won, she is on Monday with Tawney, they stamp her as one of the best jacks that ever appeared on the track.

The island now presents a most charming aspect. Spring having been unusually backward, vegetation was for a time retarded; but within a few weeks it has quickened wonderfully. The grass has grown at a rapid rate; the reeds have leaved out, and are now in full bloom while the brilliant hues of countless flowers add beauty to the landscape. A ride on Long Island is a pleasant recreation and drive over the various plank roads truly delightful. The great increase of the population in this city, and the crowded state of the avenues, must ultimately prove an evil to the island, and our citizens are compelled to resort to Long Island for recreation. Plank roads are rapidly on the increase, particularly in the western part of the island, and our feet from from jarring and jolting, so annoying on an ordinary road, command them especially to the island, while at the same time, the speed of the vehicle may be increased without the slightest danger. Among the number of plank roads already completed, there is one to Jamaica, from Bedford; the Division street road, running from Williamsburg to Cypress Hills country, which will be extended to Rockaway this summer; one to Flushing, and a most excellent one to Coney Island, which are contemplated at the present time. We will, therefore, make Long Island the great resort of all persons who enjoy a pleasant ride and are in search of both health and recreation.

The following is a summary of the trot:—
Tuesday, May 25, purse and stake \$500, mile heats, best three in five, in harness.
S. McLaughlin entered b. g. Lady Brooks. 1 2 1 2 3
J. Jones entered b. g. Pet. 2 1 2 1 3
G. Spicer entered b. g. War Eagle. drawn.
Mr. Nodine entered b. g. George West. drawn.
Time 2:30—2:42—2:51—3:03—3:14.

Court Calendar—This Day.