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PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR.

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Volume XIX ..... No. 36

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery—UNCLE TOM'S CABIN.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway—TWO BUZZARDS—A MIDSUMMER'S NIGHT'S DREAM.

BURTON'S THEATRE, Chambers street—A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM. UNCLE SAM.

NATIONAL THEATRE, Chatham street—Afternoon—GAMBLER. Evening—UNCLE TOM'S CABIN.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway—BACHELOR OF ARTS. LOVE AND MURDER—PRETTY PIECE OF BUSINESS.

AMERICAN MUSEUM—Afternoon—HOT CORN—PADDY MILES' BOY. Evening—GAMBLER'S PROGRESS.

BROADWAY MENAGERIE—GIANTS, TWINS AND WILD BEASTS.

CHRISTY'S AMERICAN OPERA HOUSE, 472 Broadway—ETHIOPIAN MELODIES BY CHRISTY'S MINSTRELS.

WOOD'S MINSTRELS, Wood's Minstrel Hall, 444 Broadway—ETHIOPIAN MINSTRELSY.

BUCKLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, 539 Broadway—BUCKLEY'S ETHIOPIAN OPERA TROUPE.

BANVARD'S GEORAMA, 596 Broadway—PANORAMA OF THE HOLY LAND.

DRENNIS GALLERY, 653 Broadway—Day and Evening.

SIGNOR BLITZ—Stuyvesant Institute, 659 Broadway.

ACADEMY HALL, 663 Broadway—PERHAM'S GIFT MANIFESTATIONS OF THE SEVEN MILE MIRROR.

HOPE CHAPEL, 718 Broadway—JONES' PANTOSCOPE.

BRYAN GALLERY OF CHRISTIAN ART—345 Broadway.

New York, Monday, February 6, 1854.

Mails for the Pacific.

THE NEW YORK WEEKLY HERALD.

The U. S. mail steamship Georgia, Captain J. P. M'Kinstry, will leave this port this afternoon, at two o'clock, for Aspinwall.

The mails for California and other parts of the Pacific will close at one o'clock.

The NEW YORK WEEKLY HERALD, California edition, containing the latest intelligence from all parts of the world, will be published at ten o'clock this morning.

Single copies sixpence. Agents will please send in their orders as early as possible.

The News.

The news from Europe is important. It is very important. All Europe is in a state of feverish anxiety. Western Europe is awaiting the answer of the Czar to the ultimatum of the Porte. The Czar holds the peace of the world in his hands. All now depends upon him. His refusal to agree to a renewal of negotiations on the new basis, plunges Europe and Asia, and, perhaps, America, in a general war—a struggle such as the world never saw—a battle of giants. An unfavorable answer from Russia is a signal for the bombardment of Sebastopol and the temporary destruction of Russian power on the shores of the Black Sea, of immediate aggressive operations in British India, and the opening of the great European campaign. Hence the anxiety to hear from the Czar. Hence the feverish, fluctuating condition of the English money market. Hence the increased demand for American securities. What will the Czar do? We hope to know by the Pacific, due tomorrow from Liverpool.

Apart from the importance of the advices respecting the Eastern question, the state of the flour markets of Europe is of great moment to us. The news by the Arabia reports another advance in breadstuffs. The comparative quotations by the last steamer are as follows:—

	ASIA Jan. 13.	ARABIA Jan. 20
Western Canal Flour	42 6 a 43 0	42 6 a 44 0
Baltimore and Philadelphia	42 9 a 44 3	44 3 a 44 6
Ohio	42 6 a 43 1	— a 44 0
United States Wheat, white	12 3 a 12 7	12 6 a 13 0
" " red and mixed	11 9 a 12 2	12 6 a 12 8
Indian Corn, yellow	49 0 a 50 0	49 0 a 50 0
" " white	49 0 a 50 0	50 0 a 51 0

Although at first sight the news does not appear of much importance, yet a careful perusal will show that it is full of interest. Europe is in a crisis.

The news from Mexico, brought by the steamer Texas to New Orleans, extends to the 19th ult. from the capital, and to the 24th from Vera Cruz. The most important point of the intelligence is the subject of the introduction of colonists, which is being discussed in Mexico. One of the journals of the capital announces that a grand plan is about to be brought forward for importing colonists from Asia, and another intimates that Germany will probably furnish this desideratum. Santa Anna was about to proceed to his palace of Encero, in the State of Vera Cruz, where he was to be accompanied by two members of his cabinet and a military force of between two and three thousand men. The Mexican papers attach some credit to the report that a clause has been embodied in the recent Gadsden treaty, stipulating for the payment of an indemnity of several millions of dollars to the Mexicans living on the frontiers who have suffered from Indian depredations. There is no later news from President Walker and his corps of filibusteros, the most recent accounts that the Mexican journals contain being derived from the San Francisco papers.

The consideration of the Nebraska-Kansas bill will be resumed in the United States Senate to-day, that measure being the special order until disposed of. It having been ascertained that a majority of Senators are in favor of this bill, there is no further apprehension concerning its fate in that body; but the greatest anxiety exists in the public mind relative to the final action on the subject in the House. A large number of the members of that branch of the national legislature are in the most extraordinary state of excitement, trepidation and confusion. The more scrupulous portion of the freesoil faction, though they may inwardly wish to sustain the party to which they have allied themselves, feel that this measure proposes to mete out equal justice to all classes in accordance with the plain and unequivocal meaning of the constitution—they know that the eyes of not only their immediate constituents, but of the entire nation, are closely watching their movements—and hence their great uneasiness and desire to evade the issue. The debate on the bill will doubtless commence in the House this week, perhaps to-day.

John Van Buren has been heard from. We understand a highly interesting correspondence has been opened by him with Col. Clemens, ex-Senator from Alabama, who is now in Washington, respecting the Nebraska-Kansas question, in which the Prince makes quite a melting appeal to Gen. Cass to go against the bill, and thereby "get into line" with what the royal scion of Kinderhook calls "the true Northern democracy." Prince John expresses his conviction of the vast difference in acting from "principle" and from "pique." The reply of Col. Clemens is represented to be distinguished for its patriotic manliness. Friend John is said to be very much annoyed at the dictation of the administration, in drawing up and sending to the Tammany Committee resolutions for their adoption, and which he voted against. Paul R. George, who is President Pierce's friend, is also represented to be as wrathy as the Prince at the course of the administration.

Yesterday being the Sabbath, we of course received but little news by telegraph. Our Albany despatch, however, contains some interesting information relative to the squandering of the school fund, to which we would direct special attention. Ex-Comptroller Wright, it will be seen, denies having acquiesced in the extraordinary transactions connected with the sale of the school lands at fifteen cents per acre. From the tenor of the despatch it is inferred that either the purchasers of this domain or else the stockholders in a railway company are on the direct and speedy road to fortune.

Among the important legal intelligence published to-day, are reports of the arguments of counsel in the United States District Court in the case of Alexander Heilbronn, claimed by England as a fugitive from justice for an alleged forgery; case of H. H. Day vs. the New England Car Spring Company; various decisions in the Court of Common Pleas, &c.

The attention of politicians and all others who desire to keep posted up in the affairs of the nation, is directed to the history elsewhere published of the late election for United States Senator in Georgia, including sketches of the former Senators and leading men of that State.

To-day's inside pages contain a large amount of foreign and domestic news, to which a want of space precludes particular reference. We will merely recapitulate the headings of the most important:—Letters from Vera Cruz, Gibraltar, Curacoa, Pernambuco, Erie, Harrisburg, Boston, Georgia, Galveston, Toledo, Iowa, Oregon, and Washington; Public Opinion on the Scarlet Letter; further from Australia and Rio Janeiro; the Hypocrisy and False Humanity of England; Western Hog Packing; Commercial, Marine, and Miscellaneous Intelligence; Weekly Mortality Report, &c.

An Important Election on the Fifteenth—Shall the State Run into Debt Ten or Twenty Millions More?

Very little attention appears to be paid to the election which is to take place in this State on the fifteenth of this month. We hear no noise, no excitement, no canvas for votes, and yet in comparison with elections for State officers, or even Governor or President, the one now at hand is paramount in importance to the people of New York. There is a sound reason for the anomaly. Particular care has been taken by those who have arranged the affair to muffle up the real issue in unintelligible words and obscure phrases, so that very few of those who will be called upon to vote will have any idea of the principle involved, or the problem proposed for their solution. They will be told that on 14th and 15th June 1853, the Legislature, sitting in extra session, passed the following amendment to the constitution of 1846:—

Substitute for section three of article seven, the following:—

After paying the said expenses of collection, superintendence, and repairs of the canals, and the sums appropriated by the first and second sections of this article, there shall be appropriated and set apart in each fiscal year, out of the surplus revenues of the canals, as a sinking fund, a sum sufficient to pay the interest as it falls due, and extinguish the principle within eighteen years, of any loan made under this section; and if the said sinking fund shall not be sufficient to redeem any part of the principal at the stipulated times of payment, or to pay any part of the interest of such loans, as stipulated, the means to satisfy any such deficiency shall be procured on the credit of said sinking fund. After complying with the foregoing provisions, there shall be paid annually out of said revenues, into the treasury of the State, two hundred thousand dollars, to defray the necessary expenses of government. The remainder shall, in each fiscal year, be applied to meet appropriations for the enlargement and completion of the canals mentioned in this section, until the said canals shall be completed. In each fiscal year thereafter the remainder shall be disposed of in such a manner as the Legislature may direct, but shall at no time be anticipated or pledged for more than one year in advance. The Legislature shall annually, during the next four years, appropriate to the enlargement of the Erie, the Oswego, the Cayuga, and Seneca canals, and to the completion of the Black river and Genesee Valley canals, and for the enlargement of the locks of the Champlain canal, whenever, from dilapidation or decay, it shall be necessary to rebuild them, a sum not exceeding two millions two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. The remainder of the revenues of the canals for the current fiscal year in which such appropriation is made, shall be applied to meet such appropriation; and if the same shall be deemed insufficient, the Legislature shall, at the same session, provide for the deficiency by loan. The Legislature shall also borrow one million five hundred thousand dollars, to refund to the holders of the canal certificates issued under the provisions of chapter 485 of the laws of the year 1851, the amount received into the treasury thereon. But no interest to accrue after July 1, 1855, shall be paid on such certificates. The provisions of section twelve of this article, requiring every law for borrowing money to be submitted to the people, shall not apply to the loans authorized by this section. No part of the revenues of the canals, or of the funds borrowed under this section, shall be paid or applied upon, or in consequence of any alleged contract made under chapter 485 of the laws of the year 1851, except to pay for work done or materials furnished prior to the first day of June, 1852. The rates of toll on persons and property transported on the canals shall not be reduced below those for the year 1852, except by the Canal Board, with the concurrence of the Legislature. All contracts for work or materials on any canal, shall be made with the person who shall offer to do or provide the same at the lowest price, with adequate security for their performance.

This amendment having been again passed by the new Legislature, a few days since, in accordance with article 13 of the constitution, the only remaining formality which is required to clothe it with legal and binding force is a vote of the people. Accordingly, an act has been passed at Albany, declaring that the sense of the people should be taken upon it on the 15th inst.; and it will devolve upon us on that day to say whether or no it shall become a law of the land.

To exercise aright this function of suffrage, the most acute intellect in the community will not deem some plain translation of the above amendment entirely superfluous. The bulk of the public would never guess that its real meaning was an authorization to the Legislature to borrow ten millions of dollars for the completion of the State canals. Such however, is the simple truth. The whole pith and meaning of a vote affirming the proposed amendment will be an emphatic expression of willingness on the part of the people to tax themselves for the payment of the interest on a fresh debt of ten millions, to be incurred for the purpose of enlarging and completing the canals. In plain English the question to which we shall be required to answer yes or no, will be simply this: Do you or do you not consent to run the State into debt ten more millions of dollars, in order to complete the canals; and do you or do you not bind yourselves and your posterity to pay the interest annually on this sum, and the principal when it shall be required?

This is a remarkably plain question: such a one as every business man is called upon daily to solve in the ordinary course of his affairs. It resolves itself into a simple comparison of the prospective benefits to accrue from the convenience flowing from a new indebtedness. If a similar question arose in the course of private business, the party to whom it was put would balance these two items, and decide without the smallest difficulty. If it appeared that the State was comparatively free from debt, that the canals were thriving and prosperous, that there was no prospect of their business diminishing, that the additional expenditure would necessarily produce additional traffic and additional receipts, that no dangerous competition was to be feared, and that the enterprise would infallibly pay the interest on the sum invested, then the proposed outlay would present itself in a very favorable light; if on the contrary, taxes were already a considerable item in our household budget, if the canals were, as a commercial scheme, the next thing to a failure, if their business was visibly decreasing, if there was no guarantee that increased expenditure would ensure increased traffic or baffle competition, if it was demonstrable in figures that so far from paying the interest on the new investment, that, would necessarily require to be drawn from the pockets of the people by a direct tax, then, we think, shrewd business men would entertain a strong aversion towards incurring the new debt.

Which of these two pictures corresponds with the present state of the New York canals? So far as taxes are concerned, our State debt is $24,000,000, or about $8 per head; a round sum. But we shall be told that this debt stands upon a basis of works that are worth more money, and therefore ought not to be called a debt. This brings us to the second point. Are the canals worth the money they are estimated at and is their business flourishing and on the increase? A glance at the following table of the tolls on the State canals for the last four fiscal years is perhaps the best answer to the question:—

	Tolls.
1850	$3 486,172
1851	3,772,163
1852	3 179,145
1853	3,168,546

Thus since 1850, while the produce of the West has been increasing with enormous strides, and the carrying trade growing with it, the revenue from the canal tolls has actually fallen $300,000. The cause of the decline is quite obvious. The canals compete with three railroads—the Erie, the Central, and the Northern—for the Western trade. When the first railroads were built the State tried to protect the canals by prohibiting the carriage of freight on railways; but of course this ridiculous enactment soon gave way beneath the pressure of public odium. A fair field was then opened for competition; and the result, which any child could have foreseen, has been a gradual approach on the part of the railways towards a monopoly of the carrying trade. Their superiority in point of speed was sure to make the rivalry no rivalry at all. Accordingly, in the four fiscal years ending in 1853, we find the freights of goods carried over these three railroads to have increased from $1,122,432 to $4,500,000, rather more than 400 per cent. It is perfectly obvious that every year will accelerate this rate of progression. Increased traffic will enable the railroads to lower their rates of freight, and in course of time, they will possess over the canals the advantage of superior economy as well as infinitely superior despatch. When this comes to pass, where will the revenue from canal tolls be?

No fresh outlay for widening, deepening, lengthening or completing the canals could prevent or even impede this result. A hundred millions thrown into their bed or on their banks would not alter the fact that the railroads are a swifter and may be made a cheaper means of conveyance for goods.

Finally, with the evidence before our eyes, first, that the canal revenues are diminishing, and secondly, that last year the Legislature was forced to raise a sum of $1,200,000 by a tax partly required to make up their deficiency, we cannot possibly discover on what grounds the advocates of the new loan expect the canals to pay the interest. They cannot pay the interest on $24,000,000, though their railroad competitors are only in their infancy; how on earth are they to pay the interest on $34,000,000, when instead of three we shall probably have half a dozen railways leading from the west to the seaboard?

It does seem to us, therefore, that the people of New York would do well to think maturely over this matter before they ratify, by their vote on the 15th, the action of their Legislature. We have endeavored to lay before them the simplest and most elementary view of the question; believing that the deductions it suggests are quite as reliable as those which flow from high philosophical or economical considerations. Still, it can hardly fail to occur to the minds of many that in proposing to sink more millions in these canals of ours, the Legislature is overlooking a recognized law of commercial economy. Canals are only a step in the scale of internal communications. They rank above post roads; as being more rapid, more convenient and cheaper channels for the transmission of goods. But they rank below railroads for precisely the same reasons. When a country is dependent on common high roads for the conveyance of her goods to a market, she does wisely in running in debt to build canals. But when all her available private capital is invested in constructing communications of a higher order—viz., railroads—to propose to lay a tax of three dollars a head on her population for the purpose of going backwards and embellishing her useless canals, is exactly like throwing one's purse into the water, because one's pocket book has already fallen in.

We are sorry to say it—but we must speak plainly—and we will therefore add that we have no doubt these views are shared by the Legislature at Albany which passed the amendment in favor of the loan. They are so self-evident, in fact, that one would need to be very obtuse to fail to see their accuracy. We are convinced that the Legislature has passed a law of whose absurdity it is amply aware, and simply because it will place in the hands of the anti-slavery majority a sum of ten millions, wherewith to open the political campaign. We are now formally notified that it is their intention to run Mr. Seward for Governor, and we can readily guess that the next Presidential election will not pass without some active participation on his part. For these schemes the anti-slavery men want money. The canal completion scheme is accordingly devised; and if the people of New York vote in the affirmative on the 15th, they will pocket ten millions, quite a handsome fund for their purpose, and which will enable them to wield an irresistible amount of corruption.

Shall we be taxed ten more millions for this?

STOOL PIGEON MOVEMENT IN PENNSYLVANIA.—We see it stated that a movement is on foot in Pennsylvania with a view of securing the election of John W. Forney (now Clerk of the House of Representatives) as the next United States Senator from said State. This is a curious piece of business, and suggestive of many curious reflections. But upon the whole, we rather think that Forney is the very man to suit the exact standard of Pennsylvania morality. The State which, rather than have a federal tax upon whiskey for the relief of the treasury, rose up in arms against the government of George Washington—the State which only fell back from the Mississippi policy of repudiation because it had not the moral courage to face the music of Sydney Smith—the State which sustains the lawless rioters for gingerbread and peanuts at Erie, would be very properly represented in the United States Senate by such a man as Forney. If the State, its authorities, its politicians, or any of its democratic spoilsmen, should get into trouble at Washington, the author of the letter to his friend Geo. Roberts would be the man, we think—the very man for the emergency, if subornation of perjury would do the business. Forney, then, is the card for Pennsylvania. Get the democracy fuddled on whiskey, get up another whiskey insurrection, keep up the peanut and parched corn rebellion at Erie, and amid the smoke and the uproar Forney may be run into the Senate. In view, therefore, of the probable election of Forney, we call upon Congress to remove the mint to New York without delay. Pennsylvanias, Forney is your man. But don't forget Jameison, and don't forget the whiskey.

The Guelphs and the Stuarts—An Historical Parallel.

The Albert policy, as it is now termed in England, has aroused such a storm of indignation amongst all classes and parties throughout the country, that it is likely to lead to the most serious consequences. In influencing the Queen to exercise a pressure upon her cabinet to further the interests of the Russian Autocrat, and in secretly carrying on intrigues with the German powers to thwart the declared views and sentiments of the English people, the Prince Consort has not only committed a treason against the State, but he has compromised the interests, and perhaps the safety, of the Crown. He must have read ill the lessons of history, or he would have deduced a warning from the parallel furnished by the conduct and fate of the Stuarts.

It was this leaning towards foreign influences, more perhaps than their religious bias, that caused all the troubles and finally led to the expulsion of that unhappy family. It is an error to suppose that his attachment to his faith was the principal cause of James' misfortunes, for at one period he had no more zealous defenders than the Protestant bishops. No; it was the besetting sin and tendency of his family to create civil discords, and then call in foreign aid to repress them, that, manifested more strongly than usual in him, engendered distrust and dislike in the minds of his subjects, and ultimately led to his ejection, or rather flight, from the kingdom. The bigotry of the epoch was not as intense as at this distance of time we might be disposed to conclude from the closing events of James' unfortunate reign. It should be recollected that the Reformation itself was as much a political and social as a religious revolution. It was not merely against the ecclesiastical abuses of the Church of Rome that the efforts of such men as Luther and Calvin were directed, but against the despotism of its system, which chained down the aspirations of the human mind, and rendered it the willing instrument of political tyranny. In emancipating themselves from its trammels, England and Scotland were, therefore, naturally attracted by a community of sympathies towards those States of northern and western Germany, which, like themselves, had succeeded in throwing off the Papal yoke. It was obvious that the true interests of the English people lay in the close and steady maintenance of those friendly relations, in order that they might present a counterpoise to the influence which the Church of Rome still possessed in France, Austria, Spain, and other parts of the Continent. It was by keeping this fact steadily in view that Elizabeth secured the confidence and affection of her subjects and consolidated her power. Unhappily, the accession of the Stuart family to the throne of England had the effect of completely altering that policy, for their family alliances, and intimate relations with the court of France, rendered them at all times ready to subserve its political objects. During their reigns the English court might be said to be the centre of French intrigues, and the peace of the kingdom was perpetually disturbed by French intermeddling. In short, their whole policy seemed marked by an utter contempt for, and hostility to, the political as well as religious prejudices of their people. Hence the troubles and discords in which they were always plunged—the tragical end of one monarch—the expulsion of another, and the final exclusion from the throne and kingdom of their whole race.

In inviting William of Orange to assume the reins of government, the English people took care to guard against the evils from which they had suffered, by selecting a monarch whose previous antecedents insured a steady perseverance in that line of policy which had rendered the reign of Elizabeth so glorious and satisfactory to the nation. Actuated by a natural resentment against the French king for his interference in their internal affairs, they granted enormous sums to William for the prosecution of the war against him. Under Anne and the first and second George, a similar line of policy was pursued. The English nation, animated by the spirit of liberty, endeavored to repel not only every thing like foreign interference, but to humble despotism in every part of Europe.

Up to this period we have seen the Protestant powers of Germany linked closely in sentiment and feeling with the English people, and maintaining a firm front to the common enemy. We are now compelled to reverse the picture.

The rapid developement of the resources of Russia, under Peter the Great, and the reception of that country in the acknowledged category of European nations, exercised an important influence on the external relations of the Protestant Courts of Germany. They became sensible of the growth of a power which would eventually overshadow, and perhaps absorb their own, and they felt it necessary to cultivate its good feeling, even at the expense of their ancient political predelictions. The effect of this course has been to loosen the ties that formerly bound them to the English people, and ultimately to array them on the side of despotism.

But we have yet to look on another and stranger alteration in the relative positions of the parties who have figured in this historical tableau. In little better than a century and a half after the expulsion of the Stuarts for their Romish tendencies and French partialities, we find a Protestant Queen of England intriguing with the German Courts for the furtherance of the interests of the Northern autocrat, thus placing herself in direct opposition to the views and feelings of her people, and selling the ally whom she had undertaken to protect. We behold, too, the equally singular anomaly of Catholic France, the ancient enemy of England, suddenly changing her *rôle*, and acting in concert with its people in a firm resistance to the encroachments of despotism. To explain this it will be necessary again to go back a little.

The first French revolution was brought about as much by ecclesiastical as by political corruption. The influence of the clergy had not only been directed to the spiritual enslavement of the people, but it controlled the foreign as well as the domestic policy of the State. By reducing, therefore, the ecclesiastical power to apostolic dimensions, and freeing the State from its despotic and embarrassing embrace, France at once reversed its former position. The religious element ceased to exercise any further sway in European questions, and new principles were thenceforth destined to regulate its political relations. It became evident that the contest must for the future lie between popular principles and despotism, and that England and France, as the representatives of the former, must eventually be drawn together by the bonds of mutual sympathy. Although traditional prejudices, and the political combinations to which the insatiable ambition of the first Napoleon gave rise, contributed for a time to postpone this result, the two nations have been gradually approximating to it for the last quarter of a century. Under Louis Philippe a considerable advance was made towards a close and cordial alliance between the two countries, and but for the unfortunate projects of dynastic aggrandisement, which interrupted the good understanding that existed between them, the evils that at present menace the peace of Europe would in all probability have been averted. The seriousness of the existing crisis has, however, consummated a result which the folly or the ambition of the rulers of France had so long retarded.

In the uncertainty that prevails respecting the policy and ulterior designs of the French Emperor, it is thought by some that the present alliance between the two countries holds out no prospect of stability. We are of a different opinion. The principles that unite them are of a vital and permanent character whilst the empire is but an accident imposed upon the French people by temporary circumstances—like martial law in a state of anarchy—to be removed when the pressure of the necessity that called it into existence has passed away.

In the many changes and shiftings which the history of politics presents to us, we do not know a more singular revolution of opinions than this. In the time of the Stuarts we find the popular feeling of England acting in close unison with the then liberal tendencies of the German powers, whilst the sympathies and family alliances of the court inclined it to favor the interests of despotic and Catholic France. In our own days we behold the strange spectacle of a cordial union in political sentiment between the people of England and France, and of a Protestant sovereign intriguing with these same Protestant powers to further the cause of Russian despotism. What can be expected from a line of policy which thus exasperates and arrays the people against their rulers, but the most fatal and disastrous results.

In all these fluctuations of opinions and parties, the English people alone have played a consistent part. The character of their institutions, approximating as closely to our own as in a monarchy is possible, has kept them steadily attached to those great principles, which, throughout all these political changes, have preserved their liberties intact. It is not, therefore, to be supposed that they will now more than at any former period of their history, tamely submit to have their feelings trifled with, or their interests poised in the balance with those of a petty German principality. As soon as Parliament meets there is no doubt that both the Prince Consort and Lord Aberdeen will be called to a severe account; and unless the former can give a satisfactory reply to the grave charges that have been advancing against him, we may yet witness in the fall of another dynasty a parallel to the fate of the Stuarts.

DEPARTURE OF BEDINI.—The readers of Sunday's HERALD will have learnt how Monsignor Bedini left this city on Saturday, having embarked on board the steamer by stratagem, in order to avoid any such popular disturbance as was anticipated. Whatever opinions may be entertained respecting the character and antecedents of Monsignor Bedini, we think few unbiassed men can look back upon his visit to this country without a shade of regret. He came here, *en passant*, on his way to Brazil, where he was to act as resident minister from the Papal States. Formally accredited to the President by a letter from his master, the Pope, he was, according to the law of nations, entitled to the same protection at the hands of our government as any foreign minister resident at Washington. His functions here, it is true, were not those of an ambassador. He was only instructed to arbitrate between the bishops and trustees of certain Catholic churches at Buffalo and elsewhere respecting church property; and the refusal of the latter to be bound by his decision naturally terminated his official career. Still, the law of nations makes but little distinction between an envoy accredited specially as minister resident to a foreign government, and an ambassador passing through a foreign country to whose rulers he is formally introduced as the representative of a temporal sovereign: and with all the light which the publicists afford us, we cannot discriminate between the position of Mr. Crampton and that of Monsignor Bedini. It is very clear that if the former were threatened with personal violence, if the newspapers teemed with inflammatory attacks upon him, and if organized bands of men openly avowed an intention of molesting him, it would be the duty of the government to afford him ample protection and to secure his safety by every means in their power. It would be an indelible disgrace to any civilized nation to suffer the passions of the populace to compel a foreign minister to escape from its shores by stealth.

This the American government has done in the case of Monsignor Bedini. He was obliged to slink away like a malefactor; and this clearly and obviously through the want of moral courage in our government to protect him. Mr. Marcy may have been right in refusing him a passport; but formalities apart, it is very clear that the administration were deterred, by the senseless clamor of a few Protestant fanatics, from dealing with Bedini as they would have done with any other foreign minister. The occurrence is the more to be deplored as the temper of the Catholic governments of Europe is known to be by no means forbearing, and we have scores of fellow countrymen now travelling in Austria and Italy, on whom it would be quite easy for a vindictive monarch to retaliate. At any other time we might possibly have defied such apprehensions; at the present, when war overhangs the whole European continent, and our interests imperiously demand the preservation of a strict neutrality on our part, the possibility of accidents which may draw us into the struggle is doubly to be regretted.

CONDITION OF THOSE STABBED AND POISONED IN CINCINNATI.—We visited late last night such persons as have been stabbed and poisoned within the past few days, and find that the family of Mr. Malcomson are all well and will undoubtedly recover. Mr. French, who was stabbed by Dr. Frank, is now considered out of danger by his physician. Mrs. Graham, who was cut by her husband, on Water, between Vine and Walnut streets, is quite low, and as yet the indications for her recovery are unfavorable.—*Cincinnati Gazette, Feb. 3.*

THE SCARLET LETTER—GREAT EXCITEMENT.—The agitation concerning Gen. Pierce's Scarlet Letter keeps pace with the new anti-slavery agitation, and in some instances runs ahead even of the Nebraska question. That letter—that invisible letter of Gen. Pierce to the New York Van Buren free soilers of 1848—has already acquired a reputation which throws the Scarlet Letter of Nathaniel Hawthorne into the shade. The two articles which we publish to-day upon the subject, from other papers, show that the public curiosity to see that awful letter of Gen. Pierce is spreading far and wide. We are beginning to see the fun of it. When shall we see the letter? Why, oh why, does not John Cochrane give us the letter?

TEARS FOR JOHN MITCHEL.—A crocodile weeping over the body of a dead lion is a moving spectacle. But we have a more melancholy sight in the grief of the Abbe McMasters as he wipes his weeping eyes with his white handkerchief, over the fallen John Mitchel,

"Fallen from his high estate."

The Abbe mourns bitterly that the Irish patriot should have so soon and so signally succeeded in cutting his own throat. Only think of His Holiness, Pope Beecher, putting down the great revolutionist at a single blow, and the organ of Pope Hughes standing by and weeping over the catastrophe. "This is a sorry sight."

Dramatic and Musical Matters.

The prosperous career of the city theatres seems to know no intermission. During the past week all the houses were full every night, and the prospect is equally good for this week. The main feature in our theatrical world, at present, is the production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," which was very successfully played at Burton's on Friday, and which is to be given at the Broadway theatre this evening. At the Broadway theatre the play is arranged in three acts; at Burton's it is played in five acts. At both theatres the Mendelssohn music is given, and at the Broadway Bishop's duet, "I know a bank," is sung. This play has been produced twice before in America—at the Park, in 1841, with Miss Cushman as Oberon and Mr. Williams as Bottom; and at about the same time at the Tremont theatre, Boston. It was not very successful at either house. Annexed is the cast of the present revivals:

Characters.	Burton's.	Broadway.
Theseus	Mr. Fisher	Mr. Conway.
Egeus	" Moore	" Mathews.
Lysander	" Jordan	" Lanergan.
Demetrius	" Norton	" Grosvenor.
Philostrate	" Levere	" Walters.
Nick Bottom, weaver	" Burton	" Davidge.
Quince, the carpenter	" Johnston	" Howard.
Snug, the joiner	" Russell	" Fisk.
Flute, bellows-mender	" G. Barrett	" Whiting.
Snout, the tinker	" Andrews	" Henry.
Starveling, the tailor	" Paul	" Cutler.
Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons	Mrs. Cooke	Mrs. Warren.
Hermia	Mrs. Hough	Mrs. Nagle.
Helena	Mrs. Buckland	Miss A. Gougenheim
Oberon	Miss Raymond	Miss Ponisi.
Titania	Mrs. Burton	Mrs. Abbott.
Puck	Master Parsloe	La Petite Viola.
The Indian Prince	Miss S. Holman	———
First Fairy	Miss Walters	Miss Fisk.
Peaseblossom	Miss Kate Leslie	Miss Hosey
Cobweb	Miss Gourlay	Miss E. Wallis.
Moth	Master A. Moore	Master Wallis.
Mustard seed	Miss Crawford	Miss S. Henry.

At Burton's the piece is directed by Mr. Burton—at the Broadway, by Mr. Thomas Barry. The representations will, probably, vary in certain points, but both will be interesting. The public voice has already attested to the success of Mr. Burton, and its verdict relative to the Broadway will be given to-night.

At both of these theatres, (Burton's and the Broadway,) the piece will be given this evening, and the rivalry will result in the good of the public.

At Wallack's theatre, during the week, a variety of interesting performances have been given to full houses. Mrs. Hoey has played Constance, in "The Love Chase," three times, and the house has been crowded on each representation. An interlude, by Brougham, called "Love and Murder," has been produced, and successfully played. It is an amusing trifle—Brougham and Mrs. Brougham having the principal parts. It is to be played this evening, together with "A Bachelor of Arts" and "A Pretty Piece of Business." On Tuesday "Love in a Maze" is to be played, with Mrs. Hoey as Mrs. Buckstone.

At the Bowery theatre "Uncle Tom's Cabin" is still running to good houses. It will be given again this evening.

At the National theatre this afternoon, a piece written by C. H. Saunders, of Boston, and successfully played at Kimball's Museum. It is called "The Gamblers, or Lost and Won." Mr. G. G. Prior, Mrs. Howard, Miss C. Howard, and other popular performers will sustain the principal parts. In the evening "Uncle Tom's Cabin" will be given.

The proprietors of the Broadway Menagerie advertise the exhibition of a wonderful dwarf, who is "four times smaller than Tom Thumb," and weighs only six pounds.

At Barnum's Museum, Christy's Minstrels, Wood's Minstrels, Buckley's Minstrels, and at Blitz's exhibition, (Stuyvesant Institute,) interesting entertainments are announced; all of which will be found duly set forth under the proper head.

At the Howard Athenæum, Boston, Miss Davenport is playing a highly successful engagement. She plays Peg Woffington in "Masks and Faces," this evening. Miss Robertson is still at the Museum. She had a great benefit on Friday.

Mrs. Wilkinson, the actress, has been giving readings of Shakspeare at St. Louis.

The New Orleans *Picayune* of Jan. 29, says:—"Mr. B. Ullman, the agent of Mme. Sontag, arrived in town yesterday, from Louisville, where he left her giving concerts with success. She commences her New Orleans concerts on Monday, Feb. 6, at Odd Fellows' Hall. The party consists of Signor Badiali, Pozzolini and Rocco, the distinguished baritone, tenor and basso; Camilla Urso, the celebrated young violinist, and Alfred Jaell, who, as a pianist, is not excelled by any other professor of that instrument now in this country. This is, indeed, a most powerful concert company."

Miss Kimberly, the well-known American actress, is in our city for a day or two, sojourning at the Prescott House. She has been playing for the last six months fine engagements in the Western cities. She plays shortly at Risley's Varieties, in Washington. She has not played in this city since she made her *debut* at the Broadway, some three years since; and it seems no more than right that she should have another opportunity at the Metropolitan theatre.

The Denin sisters have been playing in Troy during the past week.

Mr. Collins, the Irish comedian, is at the National theatre, Washington.

Mr. Forrest commences an engagement at the National theatre, Washington, this evening.

Miss Julia Dean, it is stated, has accepted an offer of $20,000, and expenses, for sixty nights, to appear in California, and will leave for the gold region early in March.

Miss Laura Keene is doing very well with the Charles street theatre, Baltimore. One of the papers says:—

Miss Keene's style combines delicacy and expression in a remarkable degree, and she is as well appreciated here as in New York. Her boy play and quiet humor are irresistible; in that fine old comedy of "She Stoops to Conquer," she excelled herself and gained hosts of admirers. She is well supported by Mr. Wheatleigh, who possesses great versatility; Miss Kate Saxon comes next, and greatly assists by her smart, vigorous and effective style of acting, the general effect of any piece in which she is engaged, and she and Miss Keene seem to revel in the parts which bring them in contact.

The following incident in Jullien's tour is given by a Baltimore correspondent:—

The immense amount of tin that had accumulated about Havre de Grace rendered the paying of the steamer impossible, and Jullien and his troupe were compelled perforce to walk over the river. This was no joke even for gentlemen, but when you consider that Mad. Jullien and Mad. Koenig are ladies of more than ordinary proportions, you will have some conception of the difficulties in this great feat; every step the ladies made was almost fatal to the rest of the party, for each successive move was the signal for a smart cracking, and it was only by a brick allegro movement that the overture was completed. Jullien was in a great state of perturbation, but directed the movements of the party with his usual tact, and after all his troubles they arrived at Baltimore, (at least the greater part of them,) only half an hour behind the time arranged for the concert.

They have been having Italian opera in Savannah. The *News* of the 31st ult. says:—

The opera of last evening was not announced in the morning papers, owing to some inadvertence, and the house was consequently dismal. "Sonnambula," one of the best, if not the best of operas, was selected for the evening's entertainment, and those portions of it which were given were performed in a creditable manner. For some reason, we know not what, no small part of the opera was omitted; the prompter was among the necessities of the evening, and the performance was unequal, sometimes as good as was desirable, and then below mediocrity. But on the whole, we doubt if any of those present will regret it, the gems of the opera having been rendered so well as to make up in great measure for the many shortcomings and omissions. We may specify the concluding air by Madame de Vries as an effort in every respect worthy her powers—it elicited the applause it merited. Signor Arnoldi, we must say in justice, is an