

NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway—Pop. HARRIS.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway—LAKES OF KILLARNEY—FAIRY TALES—DANCES OF THE COUSIN.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, No. 84 Broadway—SCROOP FOR SCARAB.

LATRA KRENE'S THEATRE, Broadway—LITTLE TOM—ROBINSON CRUSOE. Afternoon and Evening.

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery—Afternoon—MAGNETIC THEATRE—THE SWISS—COUSIN OF GOLD—Evening—HERBIE, THE HUNTER—MAGIC HARBEL—JENNY LAMB—LITTLE TOM.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery—STURNEY'S NATIONAL OPERA. Afternoon and Evening.

BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway—Day and Evening—ORCHESTRA—HIPPOCRATES, WEAVER, AND OTHER CURIOSITIES.

BEVANT'S MINSTRELS, Mechanics' Hall, 42 Broadway—US BALLO IN MARCHERA.

HOOLEY'S MINSTRELS, Stuyvesant Institute, No. 639 Broadway—STUYVESANT SQUARE, DANES, & CO.

NIBLO'S SALOON, Broadway—FAIR FAMILY BELL—DANCES—Afternoon and Evening.

MELODEON CONCERT HALL, No. 639 Broadway—SONG, DANES, BURLINGAME, & CO.—DANCE. Afternoon and Evening.

CANTERBURY MUSIC HALL, 55 Broadway—SONG, DANES, BURLINGAME, & CO.—DANCE. Afternoon and Evening.

GAIETIES CONCERT ROOM, 616 Broadway—DRAWING ROOM ENTERTAINMENTS, BALLETS, FANTOMAS, FARRIS, & CO.

AMERICAN MUSIC HALL, 44 Broadway—SONG, BALLETS, FANTOMAS, & CO.—DANCE.

CRYSTAL PALACE CONCERT HALL, No. 45 Broadway—BURLINGAME, SONG, FARRIS, & CO.—DANCE. Afternoon and Evening.

PARISIAN CABINET OF WONDERS, 563 Broadway—Open daily from 10 A. M. till 9 P. M.

NATIONAL MUSIC HALL, Chatham street—BURLINGAME, SONG, DANES, & CO.—DANCE. Afternoon and Evening.

NOVELTY MUSIC HALL, 616 Broadway—BURLINGAME, SONG, DANES, & CO.—DANCE.

THE SITUATION.

The reconnaissance of the pickets, made from the centre of the Army of the Potomac within the past few days, has established the fact that the pickets of the rebels have been withdrawn two or three miles back from their former position. The inference was that the rebel army was going into winter quarters.

The Court of Inquiry, in the case of Colonel Miles, charged with being intoxicated at the battle of Bull Run, has honorably acquitted him of the charge. The decision is furnished in a report of Beverly Johnson and R. S. Gillett, in which they declare that the bulk of the evidence produced on the trial goes to show that the charges are entirely false. It appears that another officer, who was mistaken for Colonel Miles, was open to the charge of being intoxicated on that day; but as no accusation has been brought against him, his name is withheld. It is time that justice should be done to Colonel Miles, after the protracted and often postponed investigation to which his case has been subjected.

The expedition of General Burnside, which is about to sail from Annapolis, is said to be ready to start at two hours' notice. It was learned from some contrabands taken in small canoes off Back river, in the Chesapeake Bay yesterday, that the inhabitants of Yorktown are in a state of great trepidation, fearing that the destination of General Burnside's expedition is the York river and that a grand attack is to be made on Yorktown. It is said that General Magruder telegraphed to Richmond for permission to destroy Yorktown by fire, and that he was directed not to do so except in case of the greatest emergency. Meantime, the rebels are fortifying both sides of York river.

Rumors were circulated yesterday in Louisville of a general engagement in Southern Kentucky, the particulars of which have not been stated in any quarter on reliable authority. A despatch to the Cincinnati Commercial from Indianapolis repeats the report of a fight in Kentucky, but at what point is not stated. Gen. Buell, it is stated on the same authority, had ordered a regiment of fusiliers and a regiment of light artillery to Green river. The rebel cavalry of Gen. Buckner were said to be within a short distance of the Union pickets, near Green River bridge, and an attack by him upon Colonel McCook, with the expectation of destroying the bridge, was considered probable. In anticipation of such an event, all the Union regular troops were thrown across the bridge on Monday morning. Of the battle which has been reported to have occurred at Paducah, the particulars whereof were said to have been suppressed by telegraph, we have no authentic information. In fact, all the intelligence from Kentucky needs confirmation so far.

Since the advance of Gen. Pope's army in Missouri, everything is said to be quiet. The rebels are making no demonstration. It was rumored that the people of Arkansas refused to allow the rebel General Price to enter that State with his army, except those regularly enlisted. It was said by a fugitive who was captured and taken to Springfield by the rebels, and made his escape from them, that Price had taken possession of all the houses in that city for the use of his soldiers, turning all the women and children into the streets; that he had unloaded his wagons and was preparing for a long stay.

The Toronto Leader, of the 27th December, on the faith of a statement made by the Halifax Nova Scotia, Express, of the 13th ultimo, repeats the rumor to which we have before alluded, that John C. Breckinridge, and Mr. Hunter, of Virginia, took passage on that day on board the Canada, from Halifax, to represent the rebel confederacy in place of Mason and Slidell.

By the Asia at Halifax—on her way to New York—and the Etna at this port yesterday, we have news from Europe of the 22d of December, 1861, seven days later.

England continued her preparations for war under the pressure of a very intense and general excitement, stimulated and promoted by the daily effusions of the ministerial and aristocratic press. Troops were still mustering for service in Canada, although—as the Herald reports show to-day—the Australasian, Persia, Adriatic, Panama, Niagara and other vessels had already been despatched, filled with the most efficient regiments in the British service, to North America. All the available vessels in the British Mediterranean fleet had been ordered to assemble at Gibraltar to proceed, as was supposed, to the same destination.

President Lincoln's Message to Congress had been received in England, and elicited a vast amount of attention. It is quite evident, however,

that the newspapers are disappointed at the fact of his not alluding to the seizure of the Trent, and interpret his silence on the subject unfavorably to the maintenance of peace. Indeed, it appears as if the commencement of a war with the United States was accepted as a foregone conclusion in Great Britain, and that her Cabinet will be likely to undertake hostilities—for some reason or other—either in the difficulty of the Trent or some other matter. Passengers at Halifax yesterday, from England, state that even the surrender of Mason and Slidell will not satisfy her, and that she will probably object to the sinking of the stone fleet at Charleston, in order to induce an excuse for an attempt to "rectify her American frontier" and other matters not very agreeable in prospect to our people.

The London press correspondents in Paris generally say the belief that hostilities between England and America will not be arrested, had become more general in France. The position which France would be likely to assume, under such circumstances, created very great uneasiness in the minds of the English war party; and with good reason, for the Opinion Nationale—the organ of Prince Napoleon—openly asserts that "England is the only enemy of France," while the Revue des Deux Mondes and other French journals, show, in articles of great force and spirit, that the dearest "revolutionary traditions of France" are with the United States, and that she cannot be so foolish as to go to war with us in behalf of the only Power on earth which has reason to "fear" our maritime extension. The Revue adds that England only wants to "conquer bread" for her manufacturing classes.

The Italian press is adverse to England's assumption of supremacy on the ocean, and while it condemns the action of Captain Wilkes, it inclines to a continental adherence to whatever course France would take in case of war.

The London Post of the 17th ultimo says that intelligence reached Kingston on Saturday morning, by the mail steamer, that a large war steamer, with double funnels, having a gunboat tender alongside, was seen last night and early this morning lying off Holyhead. The steamer is the Caraccas, of 800 tons burden. She belongs to the North American government, and has been employed in the Alexandrian trade. She is stated to have been driven into Holyhead harbor by stress of weather on Friday. She lies inside the great breakwater, and it is stated that her officers for sometime refused to let a pilot or any official on board, no colors being meantime exhibited. A rumor meantime gained considerable circulation that she was laden with ammunition. She was still lying in Holyhead harbor on Sunday at 3 P. M. when the mail steamer left, the Stars and Stripes flying at her masthead.

The London Times of the 17th of December reports that the Americans in London belonging to the Confederate States manifested satisfaction at the intelligence to-day of the proceedings in Congress, on the assumption that all prospect of a surrender of Messrs. Mason and Slidell, except under compulsion, has thus been terminated.

On the other hand the federalists assert that the action of the House of Representatives, unsupported by a corresponding vote of the Senate or by any declaration of the President or the Cabinet collectively, is but of secondary importance, and merely furnishes another illustration of the subserviency of that body to the populace. Those who take this view consider that the avoidance of the subject in the Presidential Message is a far stronger symptom of good than the other is for evil. They deem that the President and his advisers had resolved to wait to hear of the manner in which the affair had been met in England and throughout Europe, and that, having thus paused, they will not be likely when the accounts reach them to act with sudden recklessness.

The American shipping at Havre were, it is said, in a state of panic, owing to the presence of the Nashville at Southampton. The Journal du Havre states that several of the largest American vessels in that harbor have purchased rifled ordnance and ammunition, so as to be able to repel an attack.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

Our European news is dated to the 22d of December—seven days later. The Liverpool cotton market was rather dull on the 21st ultimo. The stock of American on hand amounted to 230,500 bales. Breadstuffs were dull and slightly lower in Liverpool. Consols closed in London on the 21st ultimo at 90 1/2 a 90 3/4 for money.

Our full report of the dying moments of Prince Albert, with scenes which took place in the chamber of death, are very affecting. Queen Victoria bore up under her affliction wonderfully at first, calling her children, who were present, around her and addressing them words of consolation and counsel on the melancholy occasion. The conduct of the Princess Alice towards both her parents elicited the unequalled praise of the press of England; but the remarks in the London Times indicate that the bearing of the Prince of Wales has not been so satisfactory. At the latest moment the health of the Queen was "unsatisfactory," and the Court had arrived at Osborne. Prince Albert will not be "laid in state," nor will he have a "state funeral." A Dublin paper, commenting on his decease, says:—"When it is known that one of the last suggestions of the Prince Consort was that gentleness and forbearance should mark the demeanor of England to a kindred people, soured and inflamed by the passions of civil war, it will enhance the love of the American people for the Queen, deepen their sorrow for the loss she has sustained, and dull the edge of irrational hostility to England."

The American residents of Paris are earnest and most sincere in their expression of sympathy and condolence with the Queen.

In Italy, at Turin, the budget has been approved by 232 against 39 votes. The financial statements of Minister Vassigi produced a good impression in Parliament. The deficit for 1861 is put down at four hundred millions, and for 1862 at three hundred and seventeen millions. The Council of Prussian Ministers have determined to convoke the Chambers on the 14th of January. The rumors of a ministerial crisis in Berlin are unfounded.

It has been decided in London that Parliament is to assemble on Tuesday, the 14th of January.

A despatch from London, of the 22d ultimo, says the ship Hon Payson, from Charleston, had arrived at St. Nazaire.

The steamer St. Andrew, of the Quebec and Glasgow line, has been chartered by the British government to convey troops to Canada.

The Board of Commissioners of Deeds, whose appointment was recommended for confirmation, was concurred in. A committee from the Board of Aldermen announced that they were about adjourning sine die, whereupon the President stated that the Councilmen had no communication to make. He instructed the committee to tender his thanks for the uniform courtesy extended to the Board during the year by the Aldermen. The Board adjourned till Thursday, which will be the last meeting.

Skating was resumed yesterday on the lower pond of the Central Park, and about fifteen thousand persons visited the ice during the day. The ice became very soft after the sun had passed the meridian, and unless there should have been colder weather during the night the chances of skating to-day are poor. However, should it not actually thaw, both ponds of the Park will be thrown open to the public as a New Year's present. Where the ice on the upper pond has broken away, through the effects of the wind, the holes have been fenced in with barrels and planks, so as to allow the sound ice to be used. Should the public be disappointed in skating, through the softening of the weather, the Park authorities will not deserve blame, as they have done what they could to enable the ice to be used.

In the Court of General Sessions yesterday Joseph Georgi, who pleaded guilty a few days since to manslaughter in the second degree, was sentenced by the Recorder to the State prison for seven years and six months. Valentine Coomb was convicted of an assault with an intent to do bodily harm, and sent to the city prison for thirty days.

A private despatch received from Washington states that General McClellan, on investigating the specifications of the charges against Brigadier General Benham, has ordered the latter's release from arrest, and he is to be ordered at once to duty. This will be grateful news to the numerous friends of this brave officer.

We are under obligations to Wm. Tobin, of the Union Coast Guard, Colonial Wardrop, at Fortress Monroe, for late Southern newspapers.

The market for beef cattle opened buoyantly yesterday, at an advance of a quarter of a cent on all grades, but closed heavy. Prices ranged from six to ten cents. Milch cows, veals, calves and sheep and lambs were steady and unchanged. Swine were active at three to four cents for still feed. The receipts were as follows:—3,889 beefs, 80 cows, 204 veals, 7,733 sheep and lambs, and 40,488 swine. Our regular report of the market, published in our weekly edition, will contain the figures for the entire year, as they have appeared in our columns from week to week. We may remark here that the receipts of beef cattle during the year have been enormous, amounting to not far from 225,000 head.

The cotton market was firm yesterday, while the sales, in lots, embraced about 700 bales, closing on the basis of 37c. a bale for middling uplands. The four market was firmer but not active, and closed at 50c., and in some cases as much as 10c. per lb. higher. Wheat was held above the views of buyers. The demand was good and prices quite firm, with moderate sales, in part for export. Corn was cheaply sold at 60c. in store and about 57c. for shipping lots Western mixed. Pork was heavy, while sales of 700 hbs. were made, in lots, at \$12 a \$12 1/2 for old and new mess, and at \$9 a \$9 50 for #1, and prime mess at \$13 25 a \$15 75, India mess sold at #1. Sugars were firm, with sales of 200 a 200 hds. The stock of sugars on hand is 26,683 hds., against 1,683 at the same time last year. Coffee was quiet but firm; the stock embraced 44,617 bags of Rio. Total of all kinds on hand, 71,000 bags. Freight was steady, with moderate engagements.

The Sinking Cause of Jeff. Davis and His Southern Confederacy.

The independent cotton confederacy of Jeff. Davis has seen its best days. Under the increasing pressure of our fleets and armies, it is reduced to the condition of a city invested by an overwhelming force and cut off from its supplies. Growing up, as in a single night, into a luxuriant development, like Jonah's gourd, it is withering as rapidly away. From every quarter of the South, in every variety of manifestation, the facts and the evidence are daily accumulating upon our hands that nothing but the intervention of England or France can prevent this overstrained and exhausted rebellion from collapsing within Mr. Seward's limitation of ninety days, like the Great South Sea Bubble or any other audacious but shallow imposture.

In the interesting statements which we published yesterday from two Union refugees who had run the gauntlet of the Davis despotism from Texas to Indiana, there are some very suggestive disclosures. Thus it appears our "blockade is depriving the people (of the revolted States) of many of the necessities of life;" that "their currency is in the most wretched condition, and is daily growing worse, while the sugar and cotton planters have already mortgaged their plantations, in order to raise means of subsistence for their families and slaves;" that "gold and silver (down the Mississippi) have almost entirely disappeared, the former being at thirty-five per cent premium, and the latter not to be had at any price;" that "many of the most intelligent and influential of the sugar and cotton planters frankly acknowledge that their ruin is sealed, unless the blockade is raised; and of that they are beginning to lose all hope;" and that "already in the city of New Orleans a large and formidable organization of Union men exists, which is ripe for insurrection when they are satisfied that a federal army is in a position to sustain them."

We are entirely satisfied of the truth of all these statements, and are as well convinced that they afford but a faint conception of the wretchedness, destitution, confusion and desperation which prevail throughout all the States groaning under the iron heel of this rebellion. We give to-day some confirmatory extracts from the editorial columns of a stray copy of the New Orleans True Delta which has fallen into our possession. The first of these extracts is a leading article of that paper on the late message of Jeff. Davis to his Confederate Congress at Richmond. The editor does not believe that the peculiar logic of Davis will convince England or France of the inefficiency of the federal blockade, or bring either of those Powers to his assistance, but argues that European nations are not to be gained to the rebel cause by foolishly refusing them any cotton except through Confederate ports. In the next article of our New Orleans philosopher, on "The Prospect," he thinks that praying and fasting are not equal to the duty of coping with Enfield rifles and rifled cannon, for that Providence often takes the side of the heaviest artillery; that our "formidable fleets" have created a ter-

rible panic throughout the South; that Ferdinand, Brunswick, Savannah, and other places on the Southern coast, are in great danger of sharing the fate of Cape Fear, Port Royal and Ship Island; and that, in short, "the prospect" of an independent Southern Utopia within any reasonable period of time is exceedingly gloomy.

But the third article, that on "Government Speculation," from our doleful New Orleans contemporary, we are gratified to say, reveals the fact that all the swindling jobs of government officials, contractors, hucksters, sharpers and rogues are not confined to the public service of the United States. Judah P. Benjamin, the head of the rebel Department of Justice at Richmond, has at least one subordinate who deals out "justice" by first extorting silver from the people, and then selling it at fourteen per cent premium; and this, we are told, is in "perfect keeping with the extraordinary conduct still pursued by the Post Office Department." "Indeed," says our indignant New Orleans editor, still harping on the Richmond rebel Junta, "it is no exaggeration to say that Buchananianism is in full and magnificent development, the machinery to conduct it is perfect, a complete espionage over the telegraph, the exercise of unregulated and unrestrained power over the export trade of the country, the unlimited and arbitrary control of local machinery, by which the property of one citizen is illegally and despotically taken from him without adequate compensation, while that of another is paid for at enormous prices, and the most profligate abuse of authority generally in every department is the rule."

This testimony is from a New Orleans editor, and we take it directly from his own columns. There can be no doubt that he is telling the truth; and, though we are sure that he does not tell the whole truth, he tells enough to show that Jeff. Davis, with his Southern confederate despotism, is fast becoming a public nuisance in the estimation of his victims. But, it may be asked, if there is such an intolerable despotism existing in the revolted States, how is it that this New Orleans editor is permitted to speak so freely? The answer is given in our preceding information that there is a large and formidable Union league existing in New Orleans, "ripe for insurrection," and that it is only awaiting the appearance of a federal invading force to break out into open revolt. Our New Orleans editor has the league at his back, and Davis and his tools are aware of it.

New Orleans, it will also be borne in mind, is the financial centre and commercial metropolis of our rebellious Confederate States; so that with its restoration to the Union, through the assistance of its "formidable Union organization," we may expect a grand succession of such escapades, from New Orleans around to Richmond, and thence through the interior to Nashville, utterly breaking up the Davis despotism, root and branch. Let England and France exercise their patience and philosophy a month longer, and two things will be made manifest to them—first, that the Southern cotton nationality of Davis and his confederates is an exploded bubble; second, that the government of the United States is a fixed and enduring reality among the great Powers of the earth.

The Failures of the Year—How the South Has Carried on War at the Expense of the North.

We publish on another page the important statistical statement of the Mercantile Agency of Dun & Co., of this city, giving the aggregates of the failures in the different States of the North during the last year, and of the States of the South up to the 1st of May, together with the liabilities, in the chief cities of the Union. These tables are highly interesting and instructive. One of the most remarkable and curious features which they exhibit is the comparison between the facts and figures of the failures of 1857 and 1861. In 1857, in the Northern States, there were 4,257 failures, amounting to \$265,818,000; in the past year the failures were 5,935 in the Northern States, being an excess of 1,678 over those of the year 1857, while the liabilities are only \$178,632,170, being a diminution of \$87,185,830 on those of 1857. The reason why the aggregate liabilities in money is less, though the number of failures is so much greater, is that the amount of business done was much smaller in the past year, the importations being greatly diminished on account of the war, the disposition of every seller and every buyer being to take in view of the storm; while, on the other hand, the number of failures is increased on account of the terrible political convulsion through which the country is passing, destroying or impairing a great many branches of business. In 1857 the larger private banking, importing and commission houses were the heaviest sufferers. In 1861, on the contrary, the jobbing houses have been the chief losers.

The commercial crisis of 1857 was caused by overtrading, and was artificial in its nature. There was no necessity for it had prudence prevailed. The commercial crisis of 1861 arose from political events, but fortunately came upon the country at a time when it was well prepared for it. Never was the trade of the United States so healthy a condition. Were it not for that the commercial disasters would have been far more extensive. If the demon of discord had not divided the country and produced a civil war, there never was such prosperity as there would have been during the last year, owing to the short crops in Europe, the abundant crops here, and the consequent excessive exports of breadstuffs. At an early period of our domestic troubles it will be recollected by all our readers that we earnestly advised them to contract their expenses. The saving produced in this way is estimated by Dun & Co. at \$100 per family, amounting in the aggregate to \$400,000,000. This will go a considerable way in defraying the expenses of the war.

It is worthy of remark that of the total failures at the North, numbering 4,257, more than New York and Brooklyn belong 915—more than one-fifth of the whole; while of the whole liabilities, amounting to \$265,818,000, more than half—namely, \$135,129,000—must be assigned to New York and its suburb over the East river—showing the vast amount of business transacted in the great Empire City of the Union. In Boston the failures numbered only 253, and amounted in money to \$41,000,000. In Philadelphia the failures were 280, but the amount of money was still less than in Boston, namely, \$32,554,000. It is in vain for Philadelphia or Boston to think of coping with New York in business.

In the Southern States the failures have far exceeded those in the North in proportion. In 1857 the number was 675, with an indebted-

ness of \$25,932,000, while the partial returns of the year 1861 reveal 1,058 failures, with liabilities amounting to \$28,578,257, although the returns from the revolted States embrace returns only for four months, when the facilities of communication were cut off. This excess of failures arises from the fact that many of them were voluntary, and for the purpose of evading obligations to the North. Subsequent State action annulled all Northern claims. To New York city the South owes \$159,500,000; to Philadelphia, \$24,600,000; to Boston, \$7,500,000; to Baltimore, \$10,000,000. The entire indebtedness to these four cities is \$211,000,000, and it is estimated that there is about ninety millions more due to the rest of the loyal cities and the States of the North, making a total of three hundred millions, of which more than one-half is due to the city of New York. In dry goods alone New York lost seventy-five millions by the default of the South.

It is thus evident that the South has been fighting us of the Northern States with our own money during the last year. The three hundred millions due to us have been employed in breaking up the Union. The Southern rebels have used our capital against ourselves. Without it and the arms and ammunition of which they plundered us they could have done nothing. Now that our capital in their hands is exhausted, the sinews of war will soon fail them, and the rebellion will die of sheer exhaustion.

The Prophet Russell Upon American Institutions.

Still remaining in a country whose integrity he opposes, whose institutions he slanders, whose policy he misrepresents, and whose hospitality he abuses, Mr. L. L. D. Russell continues to write silly letters upon American affairs to the London Times. Having lost here what little reputation he had as a correspondent, he now seems anxious to convince those who read his letters that he is a prophet. The number of such phrases as "I told you so before," and "as I formerly predicted," and "as I said it would be," and "as I told you months ago," contained in his letters, would baffle the Lightning Calculator to compute.

That Mr. Russell brought extraordinary powers to his prophetic power no one can doubt. He had been in this country but a very short time before we discovered that he reported occurrences upon the clairvoyant principle, and that it was not at all necessary for him to be present in order to accurately describe any incident or occurrence. His description of the battle of Bull Run, for instance, and of the panic that ensued, was a masterly piece of workmanship. It was impossible for ordinary people to understand how Mr. Russell could describe so vividly things which he never saw, and, indeed, things which never actually occurred. He was not upon the battle field, and yet he confidently asserted that no batteries were charged by the federal troops. It is true that all the official reports give the lie direct to Mr. Russell's statements; but, then, what is the veracity of an official report compared to that of a Times correspondent? Mr. Russell was nowhere near the battle field, and yet he saw Capt. Meagher play the coward. It is true that all of the officers of the Sixty-ninth and all other persons who were witnesses of the contest agree that Capt. Meagher fought like a hero; but then Meagher is only an Irishman, and Russell is that *homo nature*, an Irish Tory. After the battle Mr. Russell wrote that he encouraged, animated and talked with the flying soldiers. It is true that a gentleman who was with Mr. Russell during the ride to Washington contradicts these assertions, and says that Russell did nothing but spur his horse and beat a hasty retreat; but is Russell's word to be doubted upon such evidence? Certainly not. Russell is a medium, and sees things by clairvoyance. It is not necessary for him to see a battle in order to know all about it, or to be present with men in order to converse with them.

With such powers it is singular that the prophet Russell has not succeeded very well in his predictions. Our readers will remember that when he first came to this country he grasped the whole question with that facility of observation and readiness of deduction peculiar to his genius, and immediately informed us that the Union would be peaceably dissolved, because our merchants were apathetic, and preferred eating strawberries and cream to fighting the rebels. We all know how completely that prophecy has been fulfilled. It must be a source of gratification to the eminent British seer to review that truthful prediction. A Wooster street "seventh son of a seventh son," of the tribe to which Mr. Russell aspires to belong, would curse his unlucky stars, and either commit suicide or change his place of business forthwith, if he had made such a *fiasco* and it were found out. But Russell is no ordinary soothsayer. Such failures do not in the least dispirit him. His "self-consciousness," as Oakey Hall calls Massa Greeley's vanity, is altogether too great to admit of a defeat. He picks his prophetic flint and tries again.

This time he predicts a Northern civil war because Fremont was not presented with a real sword for nothing. Evidently he imagines that the Pathfinder intends to burke Honest Old Abe, transfuse the Cabinet like pigeons on a skewer, and seize the government. Conscious, however, that he is unpropitiously behind the age, and that he has read in the HETERO that the abolition conspiracy is unpopular, and only exhibits itself in certain non-combative ways, peculiar to the excitable Greeley and the virulent Phillips, Mr. Russell shifts his ground and bolsters up his prediction of a Northern civil war by the excessively subtle and abstruse arguments that the leading New York dailies are discussing their relative circulation, and that New York city has elected a new Mayor. Therefore, says the oracular Russell, of course we shall have a Northern civil war. Common sense people do not see the deduction, and think the argument rather obscure. But, then, is not obscurity a prophetic quality? Why, for thousands of years the world has been puzzling itself over some of the Biblical predictions, and can yet make nothing out of them. Regarding Russell, as we do, as not only the equal, but the superior, of such fellows as Jeremiah and Hosea, we defy any one to find any meaning in his utterances in any less time than twice as many thousand years. To be oracular one must be obscure. What is the use of being a prophet if every one can understand your reasons for your predictions?

election, then, certainly, there can be no great conspiracy brewing. But is it not the privilege of a prophet to contradict himself, if he likes? All religions have contradictory dogmas; and are we, therefore, to be without any religion? Ah, no; Mr. Russell seems to write trash; but he knows more about this country, its people and institutions than even Lord Lyons, who expounds our constitution for us, or the London Times, which informs us that we persecute British residents and drive them out of the country. When he sees conspiracy breeding in a newspaper discussion about circulation, and civil war pregnant in a charter election, we talk who have not the gift of *double vue* had better be silent and look out for squalls.

We have not the slightest doubt that Russell's predictions of a Northern civil war will prove as true as his assertions that the North would never fight; that the Union can never be restored, and that the people would resist the surrender of Mason and Slidell. It is with unfeigned sorrow we notice that several of our contemporaries write Russell down an ass, and that people generally regret that the threatened war with England did not at least result in the ejection or suspension of Russell. Russell does lie; vilify, slander, abuse, misrepresent, traduce the North and support the rebels, it is true; but then he is a prophet and an Irish Englishman, and ought to have a little license, if it be only a license to lie.

LATER FROM ENGLAND—THE LONDON JOURNALS

ON THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.—The advices received by the Asia and Etna, although seven days later, are of but little importance, their chief interest consisting in the comments of the English press on President Lincoln's Message, and in the details of Prince Albert's last moments, with speculations on the political effect of his death. The London Times quarrels with the Message because it is non-committal on the affair of the Trent, on the emancipation question, on the financial schemes of the government, and on several other matters which it would be useful for that journal to know the President's sentiments upon, in order that it might base upon them further attacks upon him and his administration, and add to the exasperated state of feeling which it has been the chief instrument in creating against this country. Instead of attacking the Message for its reserve, it seems to us that our contemporary should have accorded it praise for a quality which brings it so near to the standard of royal speeches, the great merit of which, according to European ideas, is their skillful evasion of everything which it is interesting for people to know. The Morning Post, Lord Palmerston's organ, exhibits its usual ignorance of the constitution of the public mind in this country by founding on the vote of thanks passed by the House of Representatives to Captain Wilkes the anticipation that the demands of England in the case of the Trent would raise a tremendous storm here. The utter indifference with which those worthies will be returned to the protection of the Union Jack will, we imagine, enlighten the Post, and the English press generally, as to the absurdity of their again attempting to base political calculations on the assumed analogy between British and American ideas. The manner in which the decision of the administration in this affair has been arrived at and received by our people ought to be sufficient to convince them that our government is as little under the dominion of what they call mob influences as that of any European nation.

The Queen's Messenger to Washington.

CAPTAIN C. C. SYMOUR AT THE EVERETT HOUSE—HIS DEPARTURE FOR ENGLAND IN THE GUNARD MAIL STEAMER AMERICA, 27th Dec. 1861.

Captain C. C. Symour, who was the special messenger of Queen Victoria, with despatches from the English government to Lord Lyons, the British Minister in Washington, arrived at the Everett House on Monday, and will sail for Europe in the Gunard mail steamer America to-day, carrying with him despatches from Lord Lyons to the English government.

These despatches will no doubt consist of the terms agreed upon by the United States and the British Minister at Washington in regard to Mason and Slidell, the rebel commissioners from the South for England, and a full report of the correspondence on that subject, as it appeared in the European edition of the Herald.

The America consequently will sustain no delay in her regular hour of departure, as she anchored in the port yesterday evening for that special purpose, and her passengers will be conveyed in a boat from the Cunard dock in Jersey City. She leaves at an early hour, and the next arrival at this port will be the Asia, which reached Halifax yesterday. The Mason and Slidell affair, with the decision of the government of the United States, and the correspondence between our government and England, will be read with more than ordinary interest in the other country from our columns. Therefore the arrival of the steamer will be anxiously looked for at the other side of the Atlantic by parties of all classes, creeds and political opinions; and the conditions upon which the present amicable arrangements have been secured will no doubt meet with the hearty concurrence and approbation of our English friends. They must, of themselves, convince even the most skeptical of the fact that the United States has taken, in this affair, a most honorable and laudable part, which cannot fail to meet with the high appreciation of all the great Powers.

Movements of General Scott.

General Scott has remained in strict seclusion in his apartments at the Brevoort House since his return from Europe. His health has been much benefited by the voyage across the Atlantic, and the old hero is now in the enjoyment of good health and his spirits. He does not intend leaving this city for Washington for some time to come. Since his return a large number of distinguished and influential citizens have called upon him at the Brevoort House. Among those who called yesterday were Hon. Henry Wilson, of Massachusetts; Rev. Dr. Putz, and Luther Bradish, Esq.

News from General Sikes' Brigade.

The following copy of an official document explains itself:—

Captain John T. Bruce, Assistant Adjutant General of the Kentucky Brigade, has leave of absence for ten days, to visit New York on urgent business.

D. E. SICKLES, Brig. Gen. Com. Camp Hazard, Dec. 21, 1861. Granted for ten days, with permission to apply for an extension. JOSEPH HOOKER, Gen. of Div. Captain Libnow, formerly appointed Assistant Adjutant General, did not report to General Sikes, but has been transferred to another command.

BARNUM'S MUSEUM.—To-day, in order to gratify the crowds which, on the first of the year, always throng through the Museum, the new fairy spectacle of "Onion" will be presented nearly every hour, beginning at half-past ten A. M. We perceive that the last bulletin of the health of the whole gives rather an unfavorable account of his condition. Those who have not as yet seen this interesting monster had better be quick about it, for, from all accounts, he is likely soon to shuffle off his mortal coil.

PEAR FAMILY OF BELL ROBBER.—This afternoon and evening the Bell Ringers tried their interesting performance. The day performance begins at two o'clock, and the evening commences at the usual hour.

NIBLO'S GARDEN.—Herrmann will give his usual post-digital performance to-night at this house.

A NEW COURT.—A telegraphic note was discovered by Mr. Horace P. Tuttle, at the Harvard College Observatory, early on Sunday morning, near the bright star Iota Virginis. Mr. Tuttle sends the following account of the comet to the Boston Advertiser:—