NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Irving Place.—THE GERMAN OPERA—DER FREISCHUTZ.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—MAGIC JOKE—FAIRY CIRCLE.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway.—ROSEDALE.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway.—TICKET OF LEAVE MAN.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway.—LADIES BEWARE—EASY SHAVING—YANKEE LEGACY.

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—DOG OF OLD STONE CROSS—PAUL CLIFFORD—TIGER OF THE SEA.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—JACK SHEPPARD—ANCESTRESS—FALSE COLORS.

BARNUM'S MUSEUM, Broadway.—ARABIAN GIANT, GIANT GIRL, GIANT BOY, LILLIPUTIAN KING, &c., at all hours. TICKET OF LEAVE MAN—TENANT OF THE TOMB—Afternoon and Evening.

BRYANTS' MINSTRELS, Mechanics' Hall, 472 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN SONGS, DANCES, BURLESQUES, &c.—JENNIE THE PORT.

WOOD'S MINSTREL HALL, 514 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN SONGS, DANCES, &c.—VON HAMBURG MENAGERIE.

GEO. CHRISTY'S MINSTRELS, 585 Broadway.—BURLESQUES, SONGS, DANCES, &c.—BLACK STATIE.

AMERICAN THEATRE, No. 444 Broadway.—BALLETS, PANTOMIMES, BURLESQUES, &c.—IRISH TIGER.

BROADWAY AMPHITHEATRE, 451 Broadway.—GYMNASTIC AND EQUESTRIAN PERFORMANCES. Afternoon and Evening.

HOPE CHAPEL, 718 Broadway.—THE STEREOSCOPICON; OR MIRROR OF THE UNIVERSE.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 618 Broadway.—CURIOSITIES AND LECTURES, from 9 A. M. till 10 P. M.

HOOLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—ETHIOPIAN SONGS, DANCES, BURLESQUES, &c.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Wednesday, December 16, 1863

THE SITUATION.

Mosby's and White's guerillas continue to make dashes upon the outposts of the Potomac army. They appear to be very strong in numbers, and constantly make their mark at different places.

General Butler despatches from Fortress Monroe that a portion of his forces, under Brigadier Wistar, has succeeded in capturing the rebel garrison at Charles City cross roads, on the James river. It is described as a very brilliant affair both by General Butler and General Wistar. The honor of the feat belongs to Colonel West, who commanded the Union troops, and it appears that the whole strength of the enemy's garrison amounted to eighty-two men and eight officers. The camp and equipments and provisions, &c., says General Wistar, "were all thoroughly destroyed." The New York Mounted Rifles and the One Hundred and Thirty-ninth New York infantry made a fine march of over sixty miles in a severe storm previous to the action.

Despatches received in Washington last night from Knoxville state that General Foster had assumed the command of the troops lately under General Burnside, and the latter had departed from that city for Cincinnati. All was then quiet in the vicinity of Knoxville. It was stated there, on the authority of scouts and messengers, that much of General Longstreet's artillery and trains had fallen into the hands of our pursuing force, but the account lacked confirmation.

The last news of the captured steamer Chesapeake comes from Portland last night, and is to the effect that the United States Consul at Halifax telegraphed to Collector Washburn that the Chesapeake is near Chester, in Mahone Bay, and requests that the captain or mate be sent on forthwith to identify the pirates. In the absence of the captain, who is in New York, and as the mate is badly wounded, the stewardess and one of the crew were to be taken on board the gunboat Acacia and sent on there last night.

CONGRESS.

In the Senate yesterday bills were introduced prohibiting traffic in gold, silver and foreign exchange for purposes of speculation; granting public lands to the "People's Pacific Railroad and Telegraph line;" amending the law for the punishment of treason, and also the Enrolment act. A resolution directing inquiry as to the expediency of revising and simplifying the statutes of the United States was introduced by Mr. Sumner and laid over. A resolution of thanks to General Burnside and his army was referred to the Military Committee. The Naval Committee were directed to inquire into the expediency of having all "acting appointments" submitted to the Senate for confirmation. The subjects embraced in the President's Message were referred to the appropriate standing committees. Mr. Davis, of Kentucky, called up his resolution relative to the exchange of prisoners of war, and made a speech denouncing the policy of the government, saying that it was only designed to perpetuate the party power of the administration. Senators Hale and Lane replied to this allegation, and defended the administration with great vehemence. Finally the resolution was referred to the Military Committee, and after an executive session, in which a number of naval promotions were confirmed, the Senate adjourned.

In the House of Representatives a message was received from the President recommending a vote of thanks to Captain John Rodgers, who captured the rebel iron-clad Fingal, or Atlanta, this being preliminary to his promotion. The Pension and Military Academy Appropriation bills were reported by the Ways and Means Committee. A resolution, offered by Henry Winter Davis, that so much of the President's Message as relates to the duty of the United States to guarantee to every State a republican form of government, and to those States in which the government has been abrogated or overthrown, be referred to a select committee of nine members, who shall report the bills necessary to carry into effect this duty, was adopted by a vote of eighty-nine to eighty. The portion of the President's Message referring to emigration was referred to a select committee of five, and the remaining topics of the Message were referred to the appropriate standing committees. The resolution calling for General McClellan's official report was agreed to. A resolution to refer all communications relative to an increase of railroad facilities between Washington and New York to a select committee was laid on the table by a vote of eighty-nine against sixty-one, and the House adjourned.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

The Board of Aldermen met yesterday afternoon at one o'clock—John T. Henry, Esq., in the chair—and, having transacted some routine business, adjourned to meet again to-day.

Surrogate Tucker yesterday settled the accounts of the estate of John Rose, deceased. This property, valued at over a million and a half of dollars, goes to the two brothers of the deceased, the trust contained in the will (and which was intended to provide for the establishment of a great hospital or asylum) having been held to be void. The accounts of the estates of Henry Downes and William E. Pier were also settled and adjusted.

A numerously attended meeting of the natives of Holstein and Schleswig, and of the Germans in general, was held last night in aid of the independence of the duchies. Resolutions were passed in aid of the object in view, and, instead of a national society of Schleswig-Holsteiners, a German national society in aid of Schleswig-Holstein was formed.

Policeman Sands, indicted for the murder of a man named Murphy, in the police station, after he had made the deceased a prisoner, was acquitted yesterday in the Court of Oyer and Terminer.

United States Marshal Murray transmitted yesterday $202,471 42 to Washington, being the proceeds of the sale of the prize steamer Stettin and cargo, for distribution.

Stocks again advanced in price yesterday, and the speculative movement created considerable excitement. The gold market was inactive and prices receded 1-16, being the highest that was offered at the close. Money is readily obtained at seven per cent, with more lenders in the market than borrowers. Government stocks were firm, and considerable business doing.

There was but little change in business matters yesterday, as compared with the previous day. The gradual fall in gold exerted but little influence, though in some articles there was less buoyancy and in others some decline. At the Produce Exchange the changes were not marked. Flour and grain sold at about the same rates; yet some little variations are reported. Provisions were steady, but a shade lower for pork. Petroleum was lower business very moderate. Groceries were quiet. Freights were firm, with a moderate business.

The market for beef cattle this week opened strong, under the impression that the supply would be light, but afterwards was depressed by large arrivals. Some choice cattle sold at 12c. a 12½c.—extreme rates; but first class cattle were at 11c. a 11½c., while other kinds varied from 6c. to 10c. a 10½c., according to quality. The market closed half a cent a pound lower than it opened. Milch cows were steady at $30 a $50 a $60. Veals were steady at 5c. a 7½c. a 8c.—the latter an extreme rate. Sheep and lambs were a shade lower all the week until yesterday, when the demand was good, and full prices were realized: $3 25 a $5 50 a $7 were the prices. Swine sold at 5¾c. a 6⅛c. for corn fed, and 5½c. a 5⅞c for still fed. The total receipts were 5,727 beeves, 124 cows, 411 veals, 12,890 sheep and lambs, and 44,858 swine.

The Crisis of the Country—Who is to be Our Next President?

We are at the threshold of the next Presidential campaign, upon the issue of which will depend the restoration, reconstruction or destruction of the Union and our popular institutions. The people of the loyal States, therefore, may well begin to discuss, consider and act upon the all-important question, who is to be our next President?

The present administration is engineering for another term of office; but Mr. Lincoln, his Cabinet, his last Congress, his present Congress, so far, and the clique of fanatical politicians by which Cabinet and Congress have been and are controlled, have signally failed to meet the just and reasonable expectations of the country. In a word, the present administration has proved a deplorable failure. The time at length has come when its merits and demerits may be freely discussed in reference to the succession. We have, down to this day, generously labored to strengthen the hands of the President, to apologize for or explain away his mistakes and delinquencies, to give him good advice, and to encourage him in well doing by constantly keeping before his eyes the illimitable forces and resources at his command, and the imperishable glory within his reach from their faithful employment. We have stood by him through all the dark days of the war; but now that the rebellion is fairly within his grasp, and when the next Presidency is coming into the foreground, Mr. Lincoln cannot complain if, as an aspirant for another term, he is rigidly judged according to his deserts.

We say, then, that his administration has proved a failure, including his official advisers, his measures of legislation, and his conduct of the war. His Cabinet, discordant and incompetent, has been a failure from the beginning. Seward has proved to be only a romantic dreamer, Chase a bold and dangerous financial experimentalist, Stanton a mad bull in a china shop, and Welles a veritable Rip Van Winkle, sleeping at his post. As for Blair, Bates and Usher, they may be passed over as of little account one way or the other. Of all the members of the administration, according to the late official report of General Halleck, the President himself is the individual most directly responsible for our military failures. General Burnside's Fredericksburg disaster, for instance, and General Hooker's deplorable campaign to Chancellorsville and back, are among the consequences of Mr. Lincoln's experiments as a military genius. But the fanatical and rapacious abolition elements of the country, which through Congress and the Cabinet have controlled the councils, advised the measures and dictated the policy of the administration, are the malign influences which have most lamentably damaged its reputation and its prospects.

What, then, are we to do? Is it not apparent that this administration is now more intent upon securing the approaching Presidential election than the suppression of the rebellion? Does it not seem to be the policy of the party in power rather to prolong the war, in order the more surely to exclude the rebellious States from the Presidential election? At this rate, what other course to peace and reunion, and from national bankruptcy and financial chaos, can the people pursue than the election of a new administration, upon a new platform, and under a new popular organization, wholly independent of either of the corrupt and reckless political parties of the day? We contend that there is no other course by which we can insure the national safety. Nor can a movement of this sort prevail except under the standard of a military hero, whose achievements in this war render him stronger than are the financial and fanatical powers of the administration.

And who is the warlike hero whose personal popularity thus overshadows all the politicians and parties of the day, and even the administration itself? General Grant is the man. Let the independent masses of the people, who have had enough of their despicable managing party politicians, and their horrible, bloody and destructive work, proceed at once to bring out General Grant as their Presidential candidate, and they will surely cut out the politicians, set aside the incompetent and blundering administration, and carry the day. Thus we shall secure a man at the head of affairs who can and will speedily bring the war to an end, and a man, too, from whom we may expect a new and better order of things in the work of restoring the Union and securing the national treasury and the country against a ruinous financial collapse.

We therefore call upon the independent masses of the people, without reference to party distinctions, but who are anxious for peace, reunion and financial security, to take the lead and the whip hand for the next Presidency, under the popular and always victorious banner of General Grant.

The Chesapeake Piracy—The Duty of the Navy Department.

The Chesapeake piracy is, perhaps, the most daring and atrocious on record, and it behooves the government to take precautionary measures to prevent any more similar occurrences. The duty of the Navy Department in this matter is plain and simple, and had Mr. Welles heeded our warnings some months ago the Chesapeake would have been ere this retaken, and the vessel restored to her rightful owners. We recommended long ago that one or more of the fastest vessels in the navy be stationed at New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Hampton Roads, with banked fires, ready to start at fifteen minutes' notice, so that in event of a privateer appearing in close proximity to our coast this fast fleet could be despatched as soon as the news was received of her being in this vicinity, or, in a case like the Chesapeake, it would not be twenty-four hours or more before any vessels could be sent in pursuit. Commanding officers at the navy yards do their duty promptly and faithfully, and always on receipt of news of a character which would be likely to call for a fleet of cruisers do their utmost to prepare them in advance of any orders from Washington.

The seizure of the Chesapeake, and the fact that there are other piratical parties only waiting an opportunity to seize other vessels, lead us to believe that either the Alabama, Rappahannock, or some other English privateer under rebel colors, will soon make her appearance on our coast, as did the Florida when the Tacony made her raid upon our fishermen and coasters. The Department must remember that the Portlanders captured the Tacony pirates—and perhaps they will recapture the Chesapeake—and that it is the duty of Mr. Welles to see if his vessels cannot overhaul and take something also. In future something can be accomplished provided the Navy Department will take our advice and station a special fleet, as we have suggested, which can operate—as in the opinion of every man who knows anything about the subject—very efficiently in cases such as we have mentioned.

While in search of a vessel along our coast, let the commanding officers of the cruisers be instructed to call at certain seacoast telegraph signal stations, and thus obtain the latest information respecting the movements of the vessels they are in search of. If the Navy Department would show some of the common sense displayed by private corporations or intelligent individuals, it might accomplish something which would be a credit to the navy and the country.

GENERAL SICKLES AT GETTYSBURG.—General Halleck's report is in some sense a series of assaults. Nearly every one mentioned comes in for a blow, and the President for the heaviest share. That appears to be all right. But in his assaults on generals it seems possible that the General-in-Chief, as he often speaks "without data," may sometimes speak without knowledge. We gave yesterday in our Washington news a statement in positive contradiction of what he says about the peninsula expedition of General Dix. In his account of the Gettysburg battle General Halleck directly charges General Sickles with "an error that nearly proved fatal." General Halleck's position ought to give great importance to such a charge; yet if General Halleck is a man who speaks hastily upon subjects of which he knows but little, no dignity of position can give importance to any charges that he may make. What, then, does General Halleck know about the Gettysburg battle? He knows that there was a battle; but he does not know how many troops we had engaged there; he does not know the order in which the several corps of our army arrived on the field, though he pretends to tell; he does not know the positions given to our corps as they came up; he does not know how our line of battle was formed; and he does not know what corps went in on the left of the Third corps on Thursday afternoon, and so came in for the dreadfully hard part of that day's fight. From this it seems that he knows very little about the battle; and yet he assumes to speak as to what "nearly proved fatal." Such a charge should, perhaps, not be received as a creditable imputation against General Sickles; but we are not sure that that soldier does not owe it to a well earned reputation to demand a court of inquiry.

OPENING OF THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.—The politicians in and out of Congress have commenced their pipelaying for the Presidency, and are busy pulling the wires to control the national nominating conventions of next year. The documents put forth in the shape of absurd reports of the officials at Washington conclusively show that the politicians at the national capital are unable to comprehend the events of the times, or grapple with the mighty issues of the war in a manner that will bring about an early reunion of the States. On the other hand, the political parties have all been annihilated by the people at the polls. The election in this State was not a triumph of the republicans, but a defeat. The republican party was used up, the Albany Regency smashed, and, with Tammany and Mozart repudiated, not one of these factions has any moral strength. The people are tired of the intrigues of the politicians and look with distrust upon all their operations.

What then must be done? The only question is, will the people remain inactive until the politicians again have them in their power? No person but the designing politician imagines that any party has a particle of strength in these revolutionary times. This is the time for the public to move. Party politics is now in a state of chaos. The hour has arrived for the people to move in their individual capacity and bring forward their candidates without regard to the politicians. We therefore recommend that public meetings be held in every ward and township throughout the loyal States, for the purpose of nominating their favorite candidates for the Presidency. The sooner these meetings are held the better. Subscription papers should be circulated at once, and, as soon as enough signatures are obtained, hold the meeting and trot out a candidate. All persons who desire to unite in a movement of this kind, in favor of General U. S. Grant, will find an opportunity to sign their names to a paper recommending that a meeting be held in this city for the purpose of nominating that gallant and efficient general by calling at the HERALD office. Who will move first?

GENERAL GRANT.—The man who knows how to tan leather, politicians and the hides of rebels.

THE BLOCKADE OF THE PARK—AN ADMONITION TO THE CROTON AQUEDUCT BOARD.—We have received repeatedly, from some of our most respectable citizens, including many ladies, communications complaining in bitter terms of the mud and rubbish blockade that encompasses the southerly and particularly the Fifth avenue entrances to the Park. So urgent were some of the complaints that we despatched a reporter to the objectionable locality, and his impressions are given in another column. It appears that the grievances complained of actually exist, and that a corrective is demanded, and it should be applied as promptly as possible.

The present system of laying the water mains seems to occupy too much ground at one time. Here is an extent of some eight blocks, through the main and most elegant avenue in the city to the Park, in which the street has been excavated, and but a few sections of the pipe laid, leaving all the balance of the space filled with rubbish, blocks of rock and stone and heaps of gravel and dirt, rendering a passage by that thoroughfare to the chief southerly Park entrance almost a matter of impossibility with any idea of personal comfort or of the safety of a vehicle. This route being practically closed, vehicles and equestrians going to the Park seek other avenues, and through mud sometimes knee deep they finally manage to get inside, and the mud becomes more and more "verdant" and of greater depth and cohesiveness with the passage of every vehicle.

This plan of laying water pipes and of disturbing public thoroughfares is all wrong. It is true it is common to American cities, and might be called an "American institution" were it not essentially an American nuisance. But such a thing would not be tolerated in European capitals. There, either a new and convenient avenue is opened to public grounds when it is necessary to close a main one for repairs or any other purpose, or the repairs are so regular and gradual that vehicles are not at all inconvenienced, no more than is the transit of a railway car upon a well established road because a few rails happen to be out of place or out of order and require replacing. Why cannot the same plan be adopted here? In Europe it would be deemed almost as outrageous to close up for months the main avenue to the principal pleasure ground of a large city as it would be in America to stop a railway train to repair a damage that had long been foreseen. There would be no help for a railway corporation that should be guilty of exhibiting such a want of foresight and prudence in this country. Then why should our principal thoroughfares be blocked up with not so good a reason to explain it? The fact is, it is owing to a want of the exercise of proper vigilance on the part of the chief parties who have the business in hand. In this case the inconvenience is clearly chargeable to the Croton Aqueduct Board, who have allowed the work to progress in the manner it has either from ignorance of its peculiar character or because they are wilfully blind to the inconvenience it brings upon our citizens. Why is not the work divided into short sections, so that one may be completed before another is commenced? Why is not a passable roadway furnished upon either one side or the other of the excavations in Fifth avenue? Why cannot proper fences or guards be placed along this roadway, the rocks and boulders removed, and at least one tolerably passable avenue be allowed to our city's great boast, the imperial Park? Above all, why do not the proper authorities look into the matter themselves, and if it is ascertained that the Croton Board is blamable, turn them out, or so riddle the Board of incompetent or indifferent members, and supplying it with better men, as to make it more alive to the interests and the convenience of our citizens and to the prosperity of our city? The millions and millions paid and to be paid by our taxpayers for beautifying the Park and for rendering the approaches to it convenient and comfortable as well as gay and elegant, demand that the grievances now complained of should be speedily answered and remedied.

VOLUNTEERING COMMITTEE.—The Supervisors' Volunteering Committee is still progressing with its affairs with success. The arrangement urged upon the War Department from the first by the committee, to appoint for its exclusive use, at its rooms, a mustering in officer, surgeon, &c., has, after a month's cogitation, been allowed. The importance of this plan was well understood by the members of the committee before they commenced operations, and the Chairman, Mr. Blunt, and Supervisor Tweed, went personally to Washington in reference to this very matter, and urged it with all the arguments they could make use of upon the Secretary of War, but without success. After cogitating and sleeping over it for a month, with the loss to the city of hundreds of men by the suggestion being ignored, the Secretary has at last awakened to its importance and granted the request asked for, and the plan is found to work admirably.

Now, when a recruit is brought in, he steps immediately before the Provost Marshal and the surgeon, and is examined, and the necessary enrolment papers are made out. He then goes before Mr. Blunt, shows his documents, receives his bounty money of three hundred dollars, is let down into the basement, encased in soldier's garb, and thus has become, in the course of a few moments, a soldier of the Union, and is marched off to Riker's Island.

But while the plan works admirably and saves a vast deal of inconvenience and trouble, and insures security of the men, it has been accompanied by an order from General Hays which, while it prevents some of the soldiers, perhaps, from being defrauded of a portion of their bounty money, sensibly interferes with the procurement of men, by driving the brokers or agents out of the business. That some of these agents are rogues there is no doubt. The manner in which Supervisor Blunt has brought several of them up before him and compelled them to disgorge their ill-gotten gains is sufficient evidence of this. But, although an evil, these brokers seem to be a necessary one. Very few men will come in of their own accord and enlist voluntarily. They require to be hunted up, sought out and brought in. At this the agents are adepts, and are wonderfully successful. But they are like a great many others who could be named—great speculators, and will not work unless they can make money out of it. This many of them did by making their own bargains with the recruits, hiring them to go, some as low as two hundred dollars, some for two hundred and fifty and two hundred and seventy-five dollars, &c., taking the balance of the three hundred dollars as their fee. This of course, was never sanctioned by the committee or its chairman; but it was effected through the intimate connection existing between the agent and the recruit.

The order of General Hays stops all this, and requests the committee to pay the bounty directly into the hands of the recruit after he is mustered in. The broker, of course, can see no more of him. Hence they seem generally to have struck, and have probably all gone into Wall street, where they can fleece the bulls and bears to their hearts' content. Thus, while the order of General Hays is most excellent in itself, so far as saving the bounty money to the soldier, it astonishingly reduces the number of men received. If it helps on one hand, it on the other sensibly affects volunteering. About every class of business carried on in this community is done through a broker, whether buying a box of segars, a ton of coal or a hundred shares of stock, and the Supervisors' Committee have discovered that the volunteering business is no exception to the rule.

But many of these agents or brokers are truly honest and honorable men, and will doubtless continue faithfully in the business for the sake of the fixed premium of the government of fifteen dollars for every new recruit brought in for an old regiment, and twenty-five dollars for an experienced soldier.

Now that the committee have plenty of money, the best results are looked for, and a draft, if possible, will be prevented.

THE GERMAN OPERA IN NEW YORK.—We are sorry to hear that the experiment of giving German Opera in our Academy of Music has proved a failure. The manager has offered sufficient inducements; but the public would not respond to his call, and it is asserted there is now every probability that Maretzek will be offered the Opera House, and that his season will commence in January instead of February.

New York is the only city in this country that will liberally patronize Italian Opera. In Boston or Philadelphia the operatic seasons must be short, as the patronage of the public will not hold out. Here, a good troupe, producing the best operas, with all the accessories to render the performances on a par with those in European capitals, will surely meet with encouragement. But we cannot patronize both German and Italian Opera. What we may do in that line when General Grant has conquered a peace and been elected President we are not prepared to say; but, until the General has done this, all that New York can accomplish is to liberally support Italian Opera.

We would advise Mr. Anschutz to make a tour through the Western cities, where, with his talented troupe, he may surely play short and successful seasons of German Opera. There are many thousands of Germans residing in St. Louis, Cincinnati and Chicago, who would perforce patronize German Opera in the absence of the more attractive Italian music.

WORRYING USELESSLY.—The party leaders in the present Congress have lost no time in pushing their extreme views upon its attention in the form of legislative propositions. Bills for the prohibition and immediate abolition of slavery in the States and Territories have been introduced by Senator Hale and Representatives Lovejoy, Arnold, Wilson (Iowa) and a number of others. Peace resolutions have been brought forward by Fernando Wood and Finck of Ohio, both of which will of course be shelved. It is useless for these men to seek to influence the fate of the great pending issues of the day by their action. They might as well attempt to set bounds to the ocean. By next September all control over these questions will have been taken out of their hands by the people, who, in the election of General Grant to the Presidential chair, will give an entirely new direction to the views and policy of the government.

THE POSTAL MONEY ORDER SYSTEM.—We are glad to see that the Postmaster General has again urged the adoption of the system which has proved such a convenience in England, of allowing the Post Office to act as a medium for the transmission of money by orders purchasable at its different sub-offices throughout the country. Nothing has contributed more to facilitate commercial transactions in the United Kingdom than this plan, and the wonder is that it has not been sooner adopted here. There is no other way in which small sums of money can be transmitted as inexpensively and safely. The system in England is not only self-supporting, but contributes a handsome surplus to the Post Office revenues. We trust that Congress will not fail this session to give it the legislative sanction which is necessary to enable the Department to put it in force.

WHO CONDUCTS THE WAR?—Secretary Stanton, in his report, ignores the active operations of our armies—turns all that part of the business of his department over to another functionary, and so gives a clear intimation that he has left it alone and has nothing to do with it. That other functionary—General Halleck—has given us a very full report; but whenever he comes to a very important point, and one upon which the people particularly desire knowledge, all that he says is—the President. So the President is responsible for Burnside's failure in December last, for Hooker's at Chancellorsville, and for the bad business at Chickamauga. Now, as the President is not a military man, and is emphatically a sensible one, it is difficult to suppose that he has made all this trouble by interference with generals; and the next question, therefore, is, who moves the President? Who is at the bottom, and who carries on the war? We do not expect an answer to this question; but it is to be expected that the people will provide against the recurrence of the blunders under another administration; and the way for them to do so is to elect General Grant President. They may know positively enough that he will carry on the war, and end it too.

PEACE PROPOSITIONS.—We notice that Messrs. Stebbins and Odell, who are considered out and out war men, voted for Fernando Wood's peace proposition in Congress. They need not trouble themselves on that question. General Grant will pass a set of resolutions during the coming year that will secure peace worth having.

Sale of Government Bonds.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 15, 1863.

The subscription agent reports the sale of $1,336,900 five-twenties to-day.

The Ship George Turner Ashore,

PORTLAND, Dec. 15, 1863.

The ship George Turner is ashore on Hog Island ledge, has bilged, and is badly hogged. She will discharge in a lighter to-morrow. Her cargo, destined to Buenos Ayres, and consisting of timber and kerosene, belongs to Mr. Silsby, of Salem. The vessel and cargo are partially insured.

Academy of Music.

GRAND MUSICAL AND LITERARY ENTERTAINMENT.

When the ladies undertake anything to earnest they generally succeed. This fact was fully evinced last night, upon the occasion of the concert gotten up to procure funds in aid of the "Ladies' Home for Sick and Wounded Soldiers." The Academy of Music was jammed from parquet to dome. We have seldom seen the house presents a more brilliant appearance. We were not astonished to see the crowds. We expected them. The ladies sold the tickets. Added to the fact that the entertainment was of a charitable nature, there were immense additional attractions. A great number of popular artists had volunteered their services for this occasion, and, as the only return they could expect was the praises of the audience, we take pleasure in stating that one and all were warmly and deservedly applauded.

Mme. Virginia Lorini sang the cavatina from "Ernani," "Ernani Involami," and the aria, "Son Virgine vezzosa," from "Il Puritani," with immense success. We have seldom heard this artiste to greater advantage. She was in excellent voice, and executed her morceaux admirably. Storms of applause greeted her efforts. We must say that we envy the Habaneros, who have engaged this favorite prima donna for the season. Mme. Lorini will undoubtedly add, during her engagement at the Tacon, to the prestige gained by American talent abroad.

Mme. Strakosch sang very successfully the "Rataplan." She received much applause. Mme. De Luzzan, Miss Lucy Simons, Mrs. Jenny Kempton and Mrs. Mozart sang artistically, foreign and patriotic, and received warm tokens of the approval of the public.

Herr Habelmann, the favorite tenor of Mr. Anschutz's troupe of German artists, sang very sweetly a ballad, "Der Wanderer," by Foska. Herr Steinecke also sang a German ballad. Both artists were loudly applauded.

Messrs. S. B. Mills and Frank Gilder executed upon the piano mazurkas, galop and tarantella with their well known skill.

The Arion Vocal Society sang with admirable ensemble and effect "The Cavaliers' Song," by Liszt. This effort was greatly applauded. We must not omit a word of praise as regards the orchestra, which executed so successfully the overture from Rossini's "Guillaume Tell," and the brilliant polka redowa from Meyerbeer's "Pardon de Ploermel."

During the first and second parts of the concert Mr. de Cordova recited in his most happy style a new poem, written expressly for the occasion, entitled "The Soldier." This was certainly one of the most interesting portions of the entertainment. Mr. de Cordova was much applauded.

Much praise is due to Messrs. Abella and Muzio for their efficient accompaniment of the artists, as well as to Mr. Grafulla, who conducted the Seventh regiment Band.

BROOKLYN ART ASSOCIATION.—The first reception for the season of this society took place last evening, at the Academy of Music, Montague street. The exhibition room was, as usual, jammed to overflowing, this being one of the cheap amusements which the upper ten of Brooklyn condescend to patronize. They will not support either the Opera or the drama, because they entail a nightly expenditure; but the Philharmonic and these art reunions give them any number of concerts and exhibitions for a season subscription of five dollars, and they plume themselves on their patronage of art accordingly. The proof of the little real interest which they take in such matters is to be found in the fact that the day exhibitions of the society, when the pictures can be approached and seen, are but very poorly attended. This is no doubt owing to the admission charge of ten cents, which is too much for the pockets of these patrons of art. Of the present collection of the society we cannot speak very favorably. It is composed for the greater part of pictures which have been exhibited at various places in New York during the present season. Of fresh pictures there are a few by Gignoux, Gifford, James and William Hart, Dana, Hubbard, Hennessy, DeHass, Edwin White, Shattuck and Elliott. In one respect we notice a decided improvement. The best places are not given to caricatures of Flora and Pomona. In general the pictures of the collection are this season fairly hung, the rights of hospitality not being denied, as on former occasions, to strangers. If the names of the New York contributors, who have not an opportunity of seeing to the hanging of their pictures, were—where they are sent too late for insertion in the catalogue—properly labelled by the hanging committee, it would be a satisfaction to visitors. A large number of pictures in the collection are without any indication of ownership, and in some instances their merit renders the omission a subject of regret.

New England Sanitary Commission,

BOSTON, Dec. 15, 1863.

The New England Sanitary Commission was initiated last night, the doors of Music Hall being thrown open for a grand entertainment, with the organ and a display of contributions to the fair.

The Governors of Massachusetts and New Hampshire and a large and brilliant audience were present, the receipts reaching about six thousand dollars. The fair promises to be a great success.

Court Calendar—This Day.

SUPREME COURT—CIRCUIT.—Part 1—Calendar unchanged. Part 2—Nos. 4244, 4246, 4248, 4254, 4256, 4258, 4260, 4266, 4268, 4270, 4272, 4274, 4278, 4280, 4282, 4284, 4288, 4290, 4292, 4294. Part 3—Calendar unchanged.

COMMON PLEAS.—Part 1—Nos. 2320, 741, 385, 2252, 2256, 2257, 2256, 2260, 2261, 2262, 517, 1963, 2080, 848, 1112.

Voluptuaries in Perfume, Your Desire is gratified.—The "Night Blooming Cereus" of PHALON & SONS is the most exquisite extract ever distilled from the petals of a flower. As its material, the Cereus Grandiflorus is the most fragrant floral product of the Western hemisphere, so this new odeur is peerless among perfumes.

Official Drawings of Murray, Hazlett & Co.'s Kentucky and Missouri State Lotteries.
KENTUCKY, CLASS 642—Dec. 15, 1863.
31, 18, 30, 67, 65, 62, 13, 5, 6, 40, 4, 56, 34, 33.
Circulars sent free of charge, by addressing either to MURRAY, HAZLETT & CO., Covington, Ky., or St. Louis, Mo.

Official Drawings of the Library Association Company's Lottery of Kentucky.
EXTRA CLASS 457—Dec. 15, 1863.
23, 28, 49, 45, 29, 15, 18, 78, 19, 54, 31, 1.
CLASS 458—Dec. 15, 1863.
19, 54, 34, 31, 15, 1, 52, 29, 62, 14, 74, 33, 65.
Circulars sent by addressing FRANCIS, ELLIS & CO., Managers, Covington, Ky.

Official Drawings of the Shelby College Lottery of Kentucky.
EXTRA CLASS 741—Dec. 15, 1863.
40, 16, 43, 23, 36, 64, 41, 34, 27, 68, 12, 46, 15.
CLASS 742—Dec. 15, 1863.
65, 66, 23, 67, 58, 45, 47, 36, 29, 26, 20, 35.
Circulars sent by addressing E. E. SIMMONS & CO., Successors to Jno. A. Morris & Co.

Prizes Cashed and Information Furnished in all legalized Lotteries. ALECK & CO., Brokers, 38 Pine street, N. Y.

Prizes Cashed in all Legalized Lotteries. Information given. JOSEPH BATES, Broker, 11 Wall street, room No. 1, N. Y.

Aromatic Schiedam Schnapps.
Imported in quart and pint bottles.
For sale by all druggists and grocers.

A Beautiful Complexion.—Laird's Bloom of Youth, or Liquid Pearl, for preserving and beautifying the complexion and skin. 453 Broadway, and druggists everywhere.

A Bad Breath.—How Many Lovers it has separated—how many friends forever parted. To stop a radical cure use the "BALM OF A THOUSAND FLOWERS" as a dentrifice, night and morning. It also beautifies the complexion. Price fifty cents. For sale by all druggists.

As Customary,
E. & H. T. ANTHONY, 501 BROADWAY,
three doors from St. Nicholas Hotel, are ahead of all competition in the beauty and quality of their PHOTOGRAPHIC ALBUMS For the holidays, and in their splendid assortment of CARD PHOTOGRAPHS AND STEREOSCOPES and VIEWS.
It will pay to examine their stock before purchasing elsewhere.

A Beautiful Holiday Gift.—A Grover and Baker Elastic Stitch Sewing Machine will prove an appropriate and most acceptable holiday present. This machine received the highest premiums at all the important State, Institute and County Fairs of 1863. Salesroom 495 Broadway, New York, and 182 Fulton street, Brooklyn.

A. F. Tait's
COLLECTION OF FINE OIL PAINTINGS,
Now exhibiting at J. Snedecor's Gallery, 765 Broadway,
Will be sold on Friday evening, Dec. 18, 1863.

At 581 Broadway, Opposite Metropolitan Hotel,
HOLIDAY PRESENTS. GREAT BARGAINS.
F. MALLARD,
A large and very rich assortment of Goods, imported from Paris for one of the first houses in this line, established in the South for many years. Selling off at a great sacrifice to close the concern, and consisting of artistic Bronze, Buhl, Renaissance, Marqueterie, old Oak and other Furniture, Jardiniere's, Clocks, Chandeliers, Candelabras, Porcelains, Parian Marble, Glass Ware and Fancy Articles of various qualities, rich Lace Curtains. All this stock was manufactured under our supervision and care and is specially recommended to the public.

At Church, At Home, Visiting Cards, French Note Papers, in the most elegant styles. J. EVERDELL, 302 Broadway.

Brilliant and Powerful Day and Night Double Perspective Glasses, for the field, sea, opera and tourist's use; compact, portable and efficient. A splendid assortment at SEMMONS', Oculist's Optician, 660½ Broadway, Lafarge House.

Blockade Runners—English Boots, Shoes and Gaiters, off steamer Peterhoff, at TASKER & SUTTON'S, 50 and 52 Montgomery street, Jersey City. One block from the ferry.

Coughs, Colds, Sore Throat, Asthma, &c.
Dr. SWAYNE'S Compound Syrup of Wild Cherry
Dr. SWAYNE'S Compound Syrup of Wild Cherry
Cleanses the lungs of all impurities, Infusing strength, vigor and new life Into the diseased and debilitated system.
For thirty years it has been a standard remedy, curing the most obstinate cases. Dr. SWAYNE & SON, Philadelphia. Sold by WELLS, 115 Franklin street; CARRIER, 332 Broadway.