

NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENEDETTI, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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Volume XXIX.....No. 1

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

THE GARDEN. Broadway.—SHANDY MAGUIRE—IN AND OUT OF PLACE—HAPPY MAN.

WALLACE'S THEATRE. Broadway.—MARRIED LIFE.

WINTER GARDEN. Broadway.—TICKETS OF LEAVE.

OLYMPIA THEATRE. Broadway.—CAMILLA'S MARRIAGE.

NEW BOWERY THEATRE. Bowery.—AFTERNOON—GOLDEN AGE OF NEW YORK.—FOLLOW THE LEADER.—HOLIDAY.

BOWERY THEATRE. Bowery.—AFTERNOON—DOGS OF THE JUNGLE.—SHOW BIRDS.—GOLDEN AGE OF NEW YORK.—HOLIDAY.

BARBON'S MUSEUM. Broadway.—FRENCH GIANTS. GIANT BOY. LITTLE LITTLE KING. &c. at 300 N. 3RD ST. N.Y.

BRADSHAW'S MINSTRELS. Mechanics' Hall. 673 Broadway.—BRADSHAW'S MINSTRELS. Mechanics' Hall. 673 Broadway.

WOODS' MINSTREL HALL. 614 Broadway.—MINSTRELSONS. DANCING. &c.—FOR THE EVENING.

GEO. CHRISTY'S MINSTRELS. 85 Broadway.—MINSTRELSONS. DANCING. &c.—FOR THE EVENING.

AMERICAN THEATRE. No. 444 Broadway.—BILLYE. FANTASIES. BULLDOG. &c.—LILLIES OF KILLBUCK.

BROADWAY AMPHITHEATRE. 45 Broadway.—GRAND AND SPECTACULAR PERFORMANCES. AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

ROSE CHAPEL. 718 Broadway.—THE BROTHERHOOD OF ST. GEORGE OF THE WEST.

CLINTON HALL. Astor Place.—MIRROR OF THE REBELS.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY. 61 Broadway.—LECTURES AND LECTURES. FROM 3 A. M. TO 10 P. M.

HOOVER'S OPERA HOUSE. Brooklyn.—ENTHUSIASTIC DANCE. BULLDOG. &c.

New York, Friday, January 1, 1864.

THE SITUATION.

The Army of the Potomac is enjoying its New Year's festivities in peace and in merriment. Heavy rains were falling all day yesterday, setting out the old year in the same delightful fashion experienced here.

The blockade runners at Wilmington have not been so successful of late. The Navy Department received official information from Bermuda yesterday to the effect that the steamer Coquette returned there on the 19th, having been among the blockading fleet off Wilmington, but could not get in.

We give another most interesting instalment of Southern news to-day. The Richmond Enquirer has a bold and able article against the almost universal conscription proposed by the Rebel Congress.

Our news from North Carolina shows a still stronger disposition in the press of that State to sustain the policy and action of the administration at Washington.

ING TO FURNISH AID AND COMFORT TO THE REBELS.

Barre generalities are all that can be learned as yet from Marshal Murray in reference to the performance of his functions; but the details may probably leak out in a few days.

The Board of Supervisors met yesterday. Supervisor Purdy moved to increase the salary of the Clerk of the Marine Court to \$5,000, and that of his second assistant to \$1,200 per year.

Resolutions were adopted appointing clerks to each of the District Courts, and to the Marine Court. Supervisor Purdy moved that a committee be appointed to represent to the Legislature that the salaries paid to the Police Commissioners and members of the Police force in this county are too small, and that the county be authorized to fix the amount of salary to be paid to them in future.

The Board of Aldermen met yesterday. The President, William Walsh, Esq., in the chair. A communication was received from the Commissioners of Health, calling attention to an increase of malignant fevers in certain localities in this city.

The report of the Committee of the Council on Railroads, directing the Eighth Avenue Railroad to run cars in the upper part of the city, was concurred in. The report of the committee appointing several commissioners of deeds, in place of others whose terms had expired, was adopted.

The Board of Councilmen met at twelve o'clock yesterday, when the report of the Committee on Salaries and Offices on the appointment of commissioners of deeds for the ensuing year was, on motion of Mr. Hayes, adopted.

The number of inmates in the public institutions of the city at present is 6,777—a decrease of 91 in the past week. The number of persons admitted to them during the week was 1,029, and the number discharged, transferred, or who died, was 1,120.

The number of general business transacted in monetary circles yesterday, and the only excitement displayed was in Western railroad shares, which have absorbed the attention of operators for three or four days past.

Business on Thursday was almost at a stand. There was no marked change in any articles of merchandise, and not enough doing in many to make a market. The Produce Exchange things were about the same as on Wednesday.

The War on New Year's Day, 1863, and on New Year's Day, 1864. Gentle reader, the compliments of the season. We have entered upon another year. How goes the war? How stands the Union cause in the field this day as compared with this day one year ago?

Our noble Army of the Potomac is no nearer Richmond. The mere distance considered, than it was on the first day of January last; but, in the grandest and most stubbornly contested pitched battle of all the battles of the war, it gave at Gettysburg such a damaging blow to the army of Lee that had General Meade in his pursuit one day sooner "moved upon the enemy's works" on the Potomac, the rebellion would unquestionably have been ended in that campaign.

On last New Year's Day, at the close of General Rosecrans, near Murfreesboro, was in a very critical position, his right wing having been utterly routed, with the loss of twenty-six pieces of artillery, but on the next day he put the rebel army to flight. Nine months later, after driving the enemy from the heart of Tennessee, over mountains and rivers, into the plains of Georgia, he was repulsed from Chickamauga, with the loss of twenty to thirty cannon.

The subsequent rout of Bragg's army by General Grant, the splendid defence of Knoxville by General Burnside, and the retreat and pursuit of Longstreet, have advanced our victorious columns into the very vitals of the rebellion. In holding the southern boundary of Tennessee we hold, in addition to their seaboard line, the opposite frontiers of rebellious Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi; for the State of Tennessee fronts or flanks them all.

On last New Year's Day the rebels triumphantly occupied their formidable defences of Vicksburg, and the strong works of Port Hudson, some three hundred miles below, and all the Mississippi river between those points, including the Red river, with its bountiful supplies of provisions from Texas. But where are they now? Vicksburg and Port Hudson are ours, the Mississippi river is completely reopened, the Red river is navigated only by Union steamers, while the losses to the enemy in their efforts to hold these and other incidental points of defence will not, in the summing up, fall short of the tremendous losses of one hundred thousand men, five hundred cannon, a hundred thousand small arms, an immense fleet of steamboats, and railway locomotives and cars, and all descriptions of military stores in proportion, and half a million of negroes.

COMMERCIAL FAILURE.

The great military advantage thus gained to the Union cause is the complete separation of the States concerned in the rebellion on the west side from their confederate States on the east side of the Mississippi. Thus, in fact, the rebellion, in a military view, may be considered as reduced to the seaboard States from Virginia to Mississippi; for with the reduction of these there will be no other alternative left to the rebel forces west of the river than unconditional submission or a seasonable departure for Mexico.

On last New Year's Day, however, the rebels held an almost undisputed control of all the bordering country west of the Mississippi, from the southern line of Missouri to the Rio Grande, while to-day Arkansas stands as a State substantially redeemed, and Louisiana is in a similarly encouraging condition, and Texas is not far behind.

This, notwithstanding all the blunders committed at Washington, is a good exhibit of the general results of our military operations since last New Year's Day. Surely, from these results, considering the crippled, demoralized, impoverished and hopeless condition of the rebellion in every way, especially in its rotten financial system, we may predict that our next Fourth of July will be celebrated not only in honor of the independence of the United States of America, but also in honor of the complete triumph of the Union in the absolute suppression of the most causeless, and yet the most formidable, rebellion in the history of mankind.

The Present Struggle in Europe. New worlds have been discovered, society has been formed, and all the arts of civilization have grown up, through struggles for dominion, and mainly through the struggles of some one man to rule all the rest. Such ambitions have been the forces that have in all times moved the chaotic mass of mankind, and have furnished the influences through which the world has taken shape.

Modern history records one grand instance of the repetition of this in Napoleon Bonaparte, who came up in Europe like an earthquake, or as if the fabled Titan, roaring for so many centuries under Etna, had suddenly arisen and cracked the old continental crust to its utmost extremities. He struggled for a grander dominion than had ever shone in the dreams of the ancients. Europe owned and ruled Asia, Africa and the greater part of America, and he struggled to render France supreme in richly reamed Europe, and through France to be supreme in his own person over all.

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THE UNION CAUSE IN FRANCE.

This morning an interesting letter in behalf of the Union cause, an appeal to the rebellion, to the Local National League of New York, from certain well known Frenchmen, to wit—Agnes de Gasparin, Edouard Lapeyrolle, Augustin Cochis, Henri Martin, and other friends of America in France.

This letter, although an abolition argument on the slavery question, shows that the parties concerned in writing it have endeavored to inform themselves upon the subject of this war. But they seem to be astonished that the Western Powers of Europe have been so long in coming to anything like an understanding of the real nature of this struggle, when the reason is very simple.

England and France (we speak of their governments and governing classes) have so far sympathized with the rebellion, because they have desired the destruction of the power and progress and popular institutions of the United States of America. Here is the whole case in a nutshell.

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NEW FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31, 1863. THE POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT ON THE GENERAL QUESTION.

The statement, said to be quoted from European papers, that a dispatch had been received by the French government from the United States government, declaring that the American republic would never tolerate, much less recognize, a monarchy at its very doors, is incorrect. The true position of the question will be learned from the diplomatic correspondence which was submitted to Congress with the President's Message, and is now in press.

The recent amnesty proclamation of the President is so promulgated to the rebel prisoners now in the possession of the Union authorities. It is understood that a very large number of them will accept the proffered amnesty, and that the number of prisoners will thus be greatly reduced.

Eighteen confederate soldiers are to be sold at Alexandria on Monday next, together with fifty or sixty valuable farms for unpaid taxes. Among the latter is the Arlington estate, owned by General R. E. Lee, and valued at thirty-four thousand dollars.

General King appointed minister to Greece. It is understood that General Rufus King, American Minister at Rome, is also to be accredited to the court of Greece, with an increase of salary amounting to several thousands per year.

The following information has been received at the Navy Department, from Bermuda on the 21st instant, in relation to the blockade, stating—The steamer Coquette returned on the 19th, having been among the blockading fleet off Wilmington, but could not get in.

The Secretary of the Navy has received a letter from Philadelphia in which the District Court has made a final decree in the case of the steamer Kate Dale, captured some time ago in the Gulf by the R. R. Oyster, for \$257,795, which amount has been transmitted to the Navy Department.

The following information has been received of the capture of the steamer Chatham, off Doby Sound, Georgia, December 16, by the gunboat Huron. On the morning of the 16th she was observed bound out to sea, and was immediately given. After a short chase she was captured by the Huron, and bound to Nassau.

A celebration of the anniversary of the emancipation proclamation is to be held to-morrow by the coadjutors of Alexandria. As there are several thousands of this colored population, a grand demonstration is expected among the colored population.

Some remarks have been caused by the appointment of Captain Wilson, Chief Commissary of the Army of the Potomac, vice Colonel Clark, from the fact that there are five lieutenant colonels under him. Captain Wilson is a regular army officer, and a graduate of West Point, and it is to be presumed that it is the intention of the War Department to give him the promotion requisite to afford him the rank which, according to military etiquette, would warrant his precedence of officers at present of a higher grade than himself.

Another accident occurred on the Alexandria and Oglepepper Railroad yesterday, by which several cars were badly smashed up. No lives lost.

Supreme Court of the United States. Supreme Court, Dec. 30, 1863.—No. 50. George Miller and wife, appellants, vs. John L. Tilday. The argument of this cause was concluded by Mr. Gillet for the appellants. No. 51. Lee & Lavitt, plaintiffs in error, vs. Patrick Wilson of C. L. Vinton, defendant in error. General J. Ford for the defendants in error, and submitted on a final argument by Messrs. Lee and Fisher for the plaintiffs in error.

Brigadier General J. H. Robert Ward, commanding the famous "Kearny Division" of the Army of the Potomac, arrived in this city on Wednesday evening, after a long absence. General Ward has borne a conspicuous part in the army since the commencement of the war, and has been distinguished by his gallantry and valor in the battle of Chancellorsville. General Ward commanded the brilliant and dashing night attack, whereby the Third Corps cut off the retreat of the Rebel army at Gettysburg. General Ward's command has been re-organized almost to a man. This gallant soldier has been visited by many of his numerous friends since his return to the city.

At a meeting of the officers of the Sixty-fifth New York Volunteers, held at the quarters of Captain T. G. Morrison, it was resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to draft resolutions in relation to the death of Lieutenant Frank R. Garland, who was killed in the engagement at Gettysburg, July 2, 1863. Resolved, That the committee be composed of Messrs. J. H. Robert Ward, Major J. H. Robert Ward, and Captain T. G. Morrison. Resolved, That the committee be authorized to prepare a memorial to the War Department, in relation to the death of Lieutenant Garland, and to present the same to the War Department, at the earliest opportunity. Resolved, That the committee be authorized to prepare a memorial to the War Department, in relation to the death of Lieutenant Garland, and to present the same to the War Department, at the earliest opportunity.