

NEW YORK HERALD.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

THEATRE OPERA, OPERA HOUSE, THEATRE DES VARIETES.

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Queen's Bench, where they will ultimately have a trial on the charge of committing a breach of the peace in connection with the recent great fight in England.

CONGRESS.

The Senate was in session yesterday, having adjourned over till Monday.

In the House of Representatives a bill taxing all transactions in gold two per centum was introduced, and referred to the Ways and Means Committee.

A resolution instructing the Judiciary Committee to inquire into the necessity of providing for dissolving the national bank associations under the national Currency act, in cases of the non-fulfillment of liabilities, was adopted.

A bill providing for unrestricted trade in all territory within the Union lines was introduced and referred to the Ways and Means Committee.

The bill making appropriation for the Executive, Judicial and Legislative departments of the government was reported.

A joint resolution declaring against the French occupation and designs in Mexico was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

A bill organizing a temporary government in Montana Territory was reported and recommitted to the Committee on Territories.

The President was requested to inform the House whether breast rank has been conferred in the volunteer forces, in pursuance of the provisions of the act of March, 1863, and if so on whom, and if not, the reason why it has not been done.

The resolution of the Committee on Elections declaring Mr. A. P. Field not entitled to a seat as Representative from Louisiana was taken up, discussed at some length, and laid aside till Tuesday next.

The death of John W. Noel, Representative from Missouri, who died during the recess of Congress, was then announced; eulogies were delivered by Messrs. Rollins, Arnold and Stevens, the customary resolutions of respect were adopted, and the House adjourned till Monday.

THE LEGISLATURE.

In the State Senate yesterday the readings were ordered of the bills legalizing the action of the New York Supervisors in raising money to pay the debt of the State, and incorporating the Brooklyn Yacht Club.

Various able reports were made from committees on the bills to establish a law library in this city, authorizing justices of the peace to perform the duties of coroners in certain cases, to control the running of the Brooklyn city cars, and on bills for various other purposes of less interest.

A bill relative to the Saratoga Court in this city was introduced, and one was given notice of making provision for the payment of recalled veterans.

The Judiciary Committee were instructed to inquire and report what legislation is necessary in view of the various institutions of the State refusing to pay tax on that portion of their capital consisting of United States securities.

The Senate adjourned until Monday evening.

In the Assembly resolutions were introduced and laid over until the next day, requesting our Senators and Representatives in Congress to endeavor to devise some means for facilitating the transportation of troops between New York and Philadelphia, and calling upon the national government to use all honorable means for the release of the Union prisoners now in Richmond.

Bills were introduced for a railroad in Whitehall and other streets of this city, to authorize the First Avenue and Jersey Ferry and the Second Avenue railroads to make certain extensions of their tracks, and to amend the General Manufacturing law.

There was not much other business transacted. The Assembly also adjourned to Monday evening.

In the course of republican State Resolutions, held at Albany on Thursday night for the purpose of nominating the Commissioners to be named in the new Metropolitan Police bill now before the Legislature, which requires that the commission shall consist of two gentlemen belonging to the republicanism and two belonging to the democratic party, Messrs. Arden and Bergen, present commissioners, were named as the republican members, and Messrs. Elijah F. Purdy and James J. the democratic.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

The Board of Aldermen met yesterday afternoon, and adopted a resolution increasing the wages of painters and laborers in the Cotton Agent's Department to two dollars per week, and to date back from July 15, 1863.

An interesting communication was received from Fire Marshal Baker in reference to the late explosion in Maiden lane, and urging the provision of an ordinance to prevent the storage of combustible powder within the city limits.

The Controller presented his annual statement in regard to the public moneys, from which it appeared that the revenue derived from the description of city property had increased twenty-five thousand dollars over that of 1862.

The will of Maria D. Manning is among those admitted to probate last week by the Surrogate. The testatrix bequeathed \$300 to the Long Island Bible Society and \$2,000 to the Home Missionary Society.

The will of Patrick O'Brien was also admitted to probate. It bequeathed \$100 to the Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum and \$75 towards erecting the new Cathedral. The Surrogate has rejected the will of Henry H. Forster, which was opposed by the widow of deceased, on the ground that its execution is not sufficiently proven.

The accounts of the estates of Margaret Beatty, Francis J. Hirsch and James Hart, Jr., have been settled by the Surrogate. In the estate of John P. Hill, letters of administration were revoked.

In the case of Henry Essex against Peter Leffler the jury yesterday returned a verdict for the plaintiff of \$4,367.

The final argument in the case of Clark against Brooks was heard yesterday by Judge Cardozo, of the Court of Common Pleas. His Honor took the papers and announced that he would render his decision at an early day.

According to the City Inspector's report, there were 525 deaths in the city during the past week—a decrease of 51 as compared with the mortality of the week previous, and 55 more than occurred during the corresponding week last year.

The recapitulation table gives 3 deaths of alcoholism, 4 of diseases of the bones, joints, &c.; 84 of the brain and nerves; 72 of the generative organs, 18 of the heart and blood vessels, 21 of the lungs, throat, &c.; 8 of old age; 42 of diseases of the skin and eruptive fevers, 6 prostatic diseases, 57 of diseases of the stomach, bowels and other digestive organs; 57 of venereal and general fevers, 9 of diseases of the urinary organs, and 1 from violent causes. There were 345 natives of the United States, 118 of Ireland, 16 of England, 29 of Germany, 4 of Scotland, and the balance of various foreign countries.

The three most popular foreign papers, and those sent up from a quarter to one, and a half per cent. The demand for gold seemed to be materially falling, and sellers were forced to submit to a decline, the closing quotation being 160 1/2.

Government securities are about the steady and firmest stocks on the list, and the market is gradually upward. The five-twenty yesterday were quoted at 106, and the coupon at 107, coupon five of 1865, 126 & 1/2; 1871, Treasury notes, 107 1/2; 1872, August do, 107 1/2; 1868, do, 107 1/2; 1873, do, 107 1/2; 1874, do, 107 1/2; 1875, do, 107 1/2.

The further decline in gold caused the market for general merchandise, both foreign and domestic, to yesterday, and many kinds were actually nominal. The amount of business reported was limited, and the transactions were frequently at lower prices. On Chicago the business was very moderate, and that on grain was generally lower. Provisions were steady, with a fall in inquiry at about previous rates. Freight was very dull, but appeared to be on the change in rates. Groceries were quiet, with a downward tendency in most articles. On the 29th heavy and low. Cotton was more active and advanced.

The Spring Campaign.

Again the President and those remarkable men who with him constitute our directory are busy with the war. They propose to repeat once more the miserable drama that they have played so many times since the removal of McClellan. They are engaged upon a plan for a spring campaign. No one, of course, can tell how ridiculous the plan may prove to be. Mr. Lincoln is ambitious of military fame. He no longer wishes to be immorial as a rail splitter; he is tired of the Honest Abe sobriquet, and tired even of his little joke. He knows that he has rendered abortive the good plans of able leaders simply by his interference. He knows that he has blundered frightfully from the commencement. But he evidently expects to save himself with the country and come out all right by some brilliant stroke of genius that shall place him beside Caesar, Hannibal and Napoleon. General Halleck does not care what the plan may be if it only involves the overthrow of Richmond; for he has staked his military reputation on that. Secretary Stanton does not care what the plan may be if it does not emanate from General McClellan. And therefore we ought not to be surprised at any non-sensicality. One of the republican organs published some days since as if by authority, a plan for an advance by two routes, which, if it was ever considered by the directory, is killed by this time inasmuch as we have shown that it was General McClellan's plan.

But the country will require for a spring campaign a better plan than any that Mr. Lincoln or the military nonentities about him can make. In General Grant the country possesses a military genius whose achievements are not surpassed in history. Since he has commanded our armies in the West he has conducted the grandest series of operations of the century without a single serious error. From Belmont, Vicksburg and Shiloh, from Fort Henry to Chattanooga, he has retrace the whole immense valley of the Mississippi, and has utterly driven the rebellion out of the most magnificent coast empire that was ever fought for. No two years of war ever produced a man who has won so many and such splendid battles in so short a time, and whose career has been marked by such invincible success. Besides General Grant, we have in our armies several other men of first rate military ability. In view of all this the people will want to know whether the existence of our great military genius is to be ignored while the blunders and jokers of the Washington directory arrange their little plans for the completion of this great war. Are we, with the best military talent in the world at our disposal, to have the war carried on by men who have no other title to public remembrance than their terrible blunders? No; the country will endure that no longer. Enough Northern men have already been wantonly slain to gratify the vanities of the directory men in favor of this plan; their prejudices against that. No another life must be wasted in that cruel, criminal way. The spring campaign must be planned by our great military leader; by the man whose past achievements are such that the country and the army may have confidence in the plans they may propose.

The important problem that the administration has to consider with regard to the spring campaign is whether it will enable Grant to keep what he has won and support him properly in what he has yet to do. All the indications are that the great struggle of this year is to take place in the West. There the grand final issue is to be tried, and the whole question of our success or failure will depend upon whether or not we are ready with our men when the time comes. Last year, weekly in advance of the battle of Chickamauga, we warned the government as to what was to take place. Over and over again we showed that there was in progress a grand concentration of the rebel force in Alabama, and urged the reinforcement of Rosecrans. But all in vain. The administration was too busy with politics to attend to his business, and, as a consequence, were badly beaten. Shall we have a repetition of this in May? Grant will accomplish in the West all that man can accomplish with sufficient force; but he must have the force. Napoleon sent word to Ney on the field of Waterloo that he could not make infantry. Neither can Grant; and the government must not let the country have reason to regret that its generals cannot make infantry. It must make all the industry that is likely to be wanted now, while there is time. The reinforcement of our armies must be pushed forward more vigorously. Men will volunteer plentifully now if the business is attended to; but the administration must give up electioneering and attend to it. If we fail in the spring it will be because our armies have not been properly reinforced, and the administration will be responsible for it.

Planned as we have indicated, and properly supported with men, the spring campaign will be something more than an excursion from Washington to the Rapidan—marching up the hill to march down again will be done with this. We shall have a comprehensive plan, that will not waste the energies of the nation upon any isolated struggle, but viewing the rebellion as a whole, will strike at its vital points and crush it at once. Such a plan, carried out by General Grant and such men as he would choose to assist him, would end the war by mid-summer; and such a plan we must have. Let us have no more plans from bunglers and jokers, but let the country have the benefit of all the blood and money it has spent to sustain generals.

LETTERS FROM MAINE.—The explosion, with its attendant melancholy results, in Maiden lane, a few days ago, will, we trust, be not without future beneficial effects to the public. We see that Fire Marshal Baker has sent a communication to the Mayor on the subject, and it has been transmitted to the Common Council, with a recommendation that an ordinance be passed to prevent, if possible, the occurrence here of a similar disaster. It seems that an abundance of these little infernal machines, including dangerous pieces of fireworks, torpedoes, &c., manufactured with detonating powder and other combustible substances, is stored in improper places in this city, and that at almost any hour carelessness or ignorance may occasion another fatal explosion. The instrument which caused the Maiden lane disaster is a miniature pistol, fired by detonating caps, and called a child's gun. The force of the explosion from this toy can carry a bullet into a person's head, and it is, of course, a useful plaything for babies, if parents have no especial regard for their own or their children's welfare. It is a French contrivance, and is supposed to be as effective an infernal machine in a miniature way as those which menace the life of the French Emperor whenever he goes abroad unattended. We are

glad that the Fire Marshal has moved so promptly in the matter, and hope the remedy for the evil will be applied as promptly by the Common Council.

The Washington Heights Commission—its Abrogation Discussed.

Among the greatest ornaments and attractions of all the large cities in the civilized world are the beauties and picturesque quality of their suburban retreats—those spots of quiet and care loveless to which charms can scarcely be added by any touch of art. It is in places like those that men of wealth, who have become independent through prudence and the fruits of many years of successful and honorable application to business, seek retirement from the cares of every day life, and, by the erection of costly edifices, the laying out of handsome grounds, the planting of ornamental trees and shrubbery, the construction of hot-houses and the cultivation of rare exotics and fruits, aid nature where she can be profitably aided in embellishing what is already a terrestrial paradise in itself. It seldom happens that places are selected for this purpose which are better adapted for business. On the contrary, care is taken by the proprietors to avoid every semblance to trade and traffic in all the surroundings of their property, and to make it in reality what it is intended to be—a home of peace and happiness, a place of beauty, healthfulness and joy, a place to receive friends and to dispense hospitality, a place of rest and comfort, and a place as far removed from "cent per cent" calculations as it possibly can be.

Just such a place is Washington Heights, about ten miles from this city, which the Legislature proposes to set up into groggery and shanty lots, and upon which for speculative purposes it is intended to plant a population and establish a community upon whom all the natural beauties of the region will be entirely lost—a gross and shameful outrage perpetrated upon the present proprietors, and so entirely good to the common weal accomplished. At a former session of the Legislature a commission was appointed to examine into the situation of the Heights, and to survey the land for the purpose of carrying it up in the disgraceful manner we have mentioned. The property was surveyed, and a plan of unutterable absurdity was concocted and presented. The reasoning of the commissioners and surveyors for this piece of vandalism was based chiefly upon the following grounds.—Because Robert Fulton, of New York, first made the practical application of steam to the propulsion of vessels, and because Robert Hoe, also of New York, invented a lightning printing press that can strike off twenty thousand copies per hour, and the march of improvement as they termed it—demanded that the granite heights of Fort Washington should be levelled, the Switzerland-like ravines, recesses and gorges of the romantic region should be filled up, the whole ground and intrinsically valuable features of the locality destroyed, and a work of stupendous labor and vast cost to the taxpayers of the present day connected, which neither the necessities nor the wants of the next generation was possibly require. The maps and calculations of the commission and surveyors are equally as ridiculous as their reasoning. They have mapped out a country of a most uneven and rocky surface, without any avenues between the Harlem and Hudson rivers, and prepared a scheme at once stupid and mischievous, which can have no other result than to cause a radical change in the beautiful aspect of this happy land—to cause a community like that of Mackinacville or the Five Points to spring up and vegetate with groggery, low groceries and tumble-down shanties at every corner and convenient spot, with miserable and irresponsible speculators buying, selling, dickering and hawking about lots, having no other object in view than to line their own pockets at the expense of the elegance and true value of the region, and at the expense of the rights and welfare of the present respectable residents.

We call upon the Legislature to appoint a committee to visit the region referred to, to satisfy themselves of the ruin contemplated, and then report to the Legislature if the facts are not as we have represented. This being done, they can recommend the repeal of the law authorizing the appointment of the commission, annul all their proceedings up to the present time, and allow the whole matter to subside until such time as common sense shall warrant its revival—which will insure its peaceful rest for at least a quarter of a century to come.

Army Correspondent.

In another column we give a narrative of some of the experiences of Richard of M. L. A. Hendrick, one of our correspondents who was captured by the Army of the Potomac, who was captured by the Army of the Potomac, who was captured by the Army of the Potomac.

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