NEW YORK HERALD.

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OFFICE N. W. CORNER OF FULTON AND NASSAU STS.

Volume XXIX.....No. 329

AMUSEMENTS THIS DAY AND EVENING.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Irving place.—ITALIAN OPERA—Matinee at 1 P. M.—FAUST.

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—CARTOUCHE—DAMON AND PYTHIAS—WALLACE—DUTCHMAN'S GHOST.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—DUKE ROY—KNIGHTS OF ST. JOHN—DECHALUMEAU—HOW TO AVOID DRAFTING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway.—POOR GENTLEMAN—PEOPLE'S LAWYER.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—CORSICAN BROTHERS.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway.—ROSEDALE.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway.—HAMLET.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway.—FAINT HEART NEVER WON FAIR LADY—MILKY WHITE.

BARNUM'S MUSEUM, Broadway.—THREE MAMMOTH FAT GIRLS—THREE GIANTS—TWO DWARFS—INDIANS—FRENCH AUTOMATONS. DRAMATIC PERFORMANCES—Day and Evening.

BRYANTS' MINSTRELS, Mechanics' Hall, 472 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN SONGS, DANCES, BURLESQUES, &c.—HOW ARE YOU GREENBACKS.

WOOD'S MINSTREL HALL, 514 Broadway.—DOUBLE TRAPEZE AND HORIZONTAL BAR—ETHIOPIAN SONGS, DANCES, &c.

CAMPBELL'S MINSTRELS, 193 and 201 Bowery.—VARIED AND EXCITING MELANGE OF ETHIOPIAN ODDITIES—GOOSE AND GANDER.

SALLE DIABOLIQUE, 585 Broadway.—ROBERT HELLEN. Matinee at 3 P. M.

HOPE CHAPEL, 720 Broadway.—WOODROFFE'S BOHEMIAN TROUPE OF GLASS BLOWERS. Matinee at 2½ P. M.

VAN AMBURGH & CO.'S MAMMOTH MENAGERIE, 539 and 541 Broadway.—Open from 10 A. M. to 10 P. M.

HIPPOTHEATRON, Fourteenth street.—DOG AND MONKEY ACTORS—EQUESTRIAN, GYMNASTIC AND ACROBATIC ENTERTAINMENTS.

DODWORTH HALL, 806 Broadway.—ARTEMUS WARD AMONG THE MORMONS.

AMERICAN THEATRE, No. 444 Broadway.—BALLETS, PANTOMIMES, BURLESQUES, &c.—SIMON'S MISHAP.

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

New York, Saturday, Nov. 26, 1864.

THE SITUATION.

The copious details and extracts from rebel papers and other sources regarding General Sherman's grand march across the State of Georgia, which are this morning published in the HERALD, show the complete and uninterrupted success which is marking the movement, and the universal panic which it has created among the rebels. The steamers Atlantic and Blackstone, which arrived at Fortress Monroe on Thursday from the mouth of Savannah river, bring intelligence that when they left the latter point rumors had reached there that Sherman had captured and burned Macon and Milledgeville, Georgia. These, of course, need some confirmation, though late rebel papers partially admit their truth. The statements of the rebel press and officials, and the excitement they manifest, prove that dismay has taken possession of their hearts in contemplation of this bold and novel advance, which they have no sufficient power to oppose. Rebel newspaper despatches say that detachments from Sherman's force, about the time that his movement commenced, burned, besides Atlanta, Jonesboro, Griffin, Stone Mountain, Hillsboro, Monticello, Canton and other Georgia towns. General Beauregard, the rebel Secretary of War, the rebel Senator Hill and Howell Cobb have all issued appeals to the people, calling on them to destroy everything in Sherman's path, on his front, flanks and rear. Our troops had progressed so far on their course on Sunday last that telegraphic communication between Savannah and Macon had at that time been severed by them, as well as the wires running to Milledgeville. The government at Washington is said to consider all the news received from Sherman as highly favorable. It is thought that General Lee has sent some troops from Richmond and Petersburg for the assistance of the rebels in Georgia.

We have a reiteration of the statement that the rebel army under Hood, which for so long a time continued in the vicinity of Florence, Alabama, has moved northward into Tennessee, and recently occupied Waynesboro, the county town of Wayne county, in that State. Wayne is one of the southern border counties of Tennessee, joining North Alabama, and Waynesboro is about fifty miles directly north of Florence. Hood is reported to be threatening Nashville, Tenn., and Paducah, Ky., though at Waynesboro he is far distant from either of these places, both of which are pretty well prepared for his reception. That portion of the Union force confronting him is concentrated at Pulaski, in Giles, another of the southern border counties of Tennessee, and about forty miles, in a direction a little south of east, from Waynesboro.

The Savannah river exchange of prisoners has been most successfully prosecuted by our Exchange Commissioner, Colonel Mulford, and the rebel officers, and over twelve hundred of our released soldiers, who had suffered all the privations and horrors of Southern prisons, arrived at Fortress Monroe on Thursday in the steamships Atlantic and Blackstone, and thence reached Annapolis, Md., yesterday. This announcement will cause unbounded joy in many Northern homes.

By the arrival here yesterday of the steamship Suwo Nada, from New Orleans on the 19th of this month, we have later and interesting despatches from the Department of the Gulf. On the 18th inst. at a Union expedition into the Lafourche district of Louisiana attacked and defeated a rebel force and destroyed their camp and baggage and a number of boats. It is said that Allen, who assumes to be rebel Governor of Louisiana, has organized at Shreveport, in that State, ten regiments of negroes, who are to be armed and equipped from the proceeds of cotton sales at Matamoros. There is a report that the rebel General Buckner has ten thousand troops at Alexandria, La., where there are said to be abundant supplies of beef and corn. One of our New Orleans correspondents says that a gentleman has arrived in that city with permission from President Lincoln to bring twenty thousand bales of cotton into the Union lines. The large supply of cotton recently stopped by the rebel authorities on its way across Texas to Brownsville has been released. The House of Representatives of the Louisiana Legislature has authorized the issuance of bonds to the amount of two and a half millions of dollars for the purpose of carrying on the State government. General Canby was rapidly recovering from the effects of his wound received on White river, Arkansas.

Our despatches from the armies of the Potomac and the James describe the great preparations for a due celebration of the National Thanksgiving, for which the immense supplies of turkeys and other good things contributed by the patriotic and benevolent people of the North had afforded all the facilities. No new military movements are reported.

We have nothing later to report from the Shenandoah valley of particular importance.

The steam transport Arago arrived at this port yesterday, from Port Royal, S. C., on last Tuesday. There have been no additional military movements of interest in the Department of the South since the date of previous advices. Our despatches give accounts of the progress of the exchange of prisoners in the Savannah river. Our released soldiers presented a deplorable appearance after their many months of rebel captivity, but were overjoyed at being once more under the Stars and Stripes. Union officers who had escaped from prison at Columbia, S. C., and arrived at Hilton Head, state that extreme consternation prevailed in Charleston and Savannah regarding Sherman's great raid.

Mrs. Sarah Hutchings has been convicted by a military commission in Baltimore of having been extensively engaged in sending arms from the North to the Maryland rebel guerilla chief Harry Gilmor, and sentenced to imprisonment for five years. Her case attracts much attention and interest in the Monumental City, and strong efforts are being made by her friends to procure a mitigation of her punishment.

The papers of Nassau, in the Bahamas, dated to the 19th inst., give the following movements at that port of rebel blockade runners:—On the 31st ult. the steamers Chicora and Syren, from Charleston, and the Armstrong, from Wilmington, arrived; on the 7th inst. the Coquette and Druid, from Charleston, and the Little Hattie, from Wilmington, arrived; on the 10th the General Clinch arrived from Charleston. The Will o' the Wisp returned to port on the 8th, and the Wild Rover on the 12th, the latter having been chased by a federal cruiser. The Owl and Stormy Petrel, from Bermuda, and the Ptarmigan, from Halifax, had also arrived, having been chased off Wilmington. The Bertha, Julia Armstrong, Ptarmigan, Little Hattie, Owl and Beatrice had sailed to run the blockade.

In the rebel House of Representatives on last Monday Mr. Foote made another display of his bellicose qualities, and called upon any member who objected to anything he had previously said to send him a note, to which he would not fail to give attention. Mr. Foote was subsequently arrested and required to give bail to keep the peace, on charge of being engaged to fight a duel with John Mitchell. The House again, in another fit of desperate patriotism, re-adopted its previous resolution to fight out the war to the bitter end. Late rebel papers say that eight transports loaded with Union troops and two batteries of Parrott guns have left Morganzia, La., for the White river, Arkansas. An account is given of the attempt and failure to escape from prison at Columbia, S. C., of eighty-eight Union officers. A committee of the Georgia Legislature have reported that Mr. Alred, a member of that body, has been engaged in recruiting in Northern Georgia several companies of men for the armies of General Sherman. We are informed by a correspondent of the Mobile *Register* that the corn crop in Northwestern Mississippi has been a failure, and that the inhabitants are likely to suffer greatly in consequence, unless speedily relieved. A correspondent, in describing the rebel gun factory at Montgomery, Alabama, says that in a short time it will be able to furnish all the arms needed for the rebel armies. The garrison of Mobile is said to be suffering much for want of necessary clothing. A negro was recently hung in Carroll county, Mississippi, for attempting to raise a company of men of his own color to fight in the Union cause.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

The steamship Asia, from Queenstown November 18, reached Halifax yesterday morning on her voyage to Boston. Her news is two days later.

Captain Semmes received the crew of his new Alabama, the Sea King, on board that vessel off Madeira. The men were shipped in Liverpool. On their joining the Sea King Semmes made an address, explaining the nature of the duties expected from them by the rebel government. At the conclusion of his remarks a row ensued on deck, after which thirty-six men out of one hundred refused to go with him, and returned to Liverpool in the Laurel.

The London journals publish the correspondence between the British Consul at Bahia, Brazil, and the Governor of the province on the Florida case. Influenced by the perusal of the official papers, some of the London journals renew their angry protests against the action of the commander of the Wachusett. Others of these papers express the hope that due reparation will be made by the United States government.

La France of Paris says that Brazil has broken off diplomatic relations with the United States in consequence of the seizure of the Florida, and the Paris *Patrie*, of the latest date, asserts that England has called on all the other great Powers to protest collectively against the seizure.

A London paper confesses that British army officers, when regularly commissioned, have always been received with courtesy in the American camps, North and South.

Earl Russell delivered an address in the University of Aberdeen, in which he expressed his joy at the fact that the negro was forever free in America, no matter how the war may end; in reunion—or "a final separation."

Hon. J. C. Scarlett, late British Minister in Athens, has been appointed ambassador of Queen Victoria to Mexico.

Franz Muller was to be executed on the 14th of November, the Home Secretary having refused to reprieve him.

The Dane-German peace treaty was approved by both branches of the Danish Legislature.

The debates on the Franco-Italian convention and the question of the removal of the capital were continued in the Italian Parliament. Deplorable damage had been done by the recent floods around Florence.

Armed insurrectionary demonstrations had again been made in Venetia.

Admiral Sir M. Stopford, R. N., is dead.

The King of Belgium was on a visit to the Emperor Napoleon.

The London discount market was easy, but there was an average demand at the bank at the reduced rate. Consols closed at 91 a 91¼ for money, on the 12th of November.

The Liverpool cotton market was buoyant on the 12th of November, at an advance ranging from one fourth to one half of a penny. Breadstuffs were steady. Provisions dull.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Several fires, apparently the result of design, occurred last night at eight hotels in this city—the St. Nicholas, Metropolitan, Lafarge, St. James, Lovejoys, Belmont, Tammany Hall, Gramercy Park, and also in Barnum's Museum. The Fire Department were very active, and the fires were soon put down, with only trifling loss. In every instance the presence of bottles of phosphorus was discovered in the beds, showing a combination of incendiaries with a manifest intention of either plundering the hotels or creating a general conflagration in the city. Chief Engineer Decker, upon hearing the first alarm, telegraphed to all the hotels to guard them against danger. Two parties have been arrested on suspicion.

The two houses of Congress will reassemble at Washington on the 5th proximo, one week from next Monday. It is understood that among other matters which will be treated of in the annual message of the President, will be the views of the administration on the various propositions for peace and its policy on that subject. Nearly all the reports of the Cabinet Secretaries will be ready for presentation, it is thought, when the session opens.

A Washington despatch states that Attorney General Bates has decided to retire from President Lincoln's Cabinet, but that the time of his resignation is not fixed.

The numerously signed petition to President Lincoln from the people of England, in favor of peace between our national government and the rebels, has arrived in Washington.

We have files of the *Correio Mercantil* and *Jornal do Commercio*, of Rio Janeiro, to the 9th of October; but they contain little or no news. We have previously received copies of the *Jornal do Recife* to the 15th of October, with full particulars of the circumstances attending the capture of the Florida. The main facts have already been detailed in the HERALD. The *Correio* of the 9th of October says:—The Supreme Tribunal of Justice of Brazil has negatived the appeal of the United States Consul in the case of the house of Phippe, Brothers & Co. and the captains of the American ships A. E. Grant, Virginia, Fanny and Abigail, confirming the decision of the Tribunal of Commerce of Rio, which ruled that the American Consul was not entitled to interfere in such a matter. The appeal was denied by the united vote of all the members present.

Late West India news alludes to considerable disasters to shipping in the early part of this month along the east coast of the island of Porto Rico. A French bark, two French schooners, a British schooner and a Spanish schooner are known to have been wrecked, and it is feared that many other vessels met a similar fate.

By the steamship Champion, from New Orleans and Havana, we have one day later intelligence from the latter port, our files extending to the 20th inst. There is nothing additional of any importance either from Mexico or Havana.

The Board of County Canvassers resumed their business yesterday, on the canvass of the Eighth Congressional (Brooks') district. The disputed Third district was taken up, and the return having been made to the County Clerk, the informality which prevented its canvass before was removed, and the district was canvassed. When the whole Congressional district was canvassed, it was found that Brooks had a plurality of one hundred and forty-six votes, which settles the question of his election in his favor, so far as the County Canvassers can settle it.

Yesterday being the eighty-first anniversary of the evacuation of this city by the British army, salutes in honor of the occasion were fired on the Battery at sunrise and noon, by order of Major General Sandford, commanding the First division of the National Guard. There was no parade of any of the city militia regiments; but the Veterans of 1776 and the Veterans of the war of 1812 passed in procession through the principal streets, headed by bands of music.

Lewis Rattigan was yesterday committed to the Tombs for examination on charge of having passed on a Leonard street saloon keeper two counterfeit five dollar bills purporting to have been issued by the Bank of Owego, in this State.

A woman named Ellen Handford was yesterday committed in default of one thousand dollars bail, on the complaint of James T. Rowe, who says that after drugging him, in a house in Leroy place, she stole from him property worth over two hundred dollars, none of which was recovered.

During the fire at the Bancroft House, in Broadway, on Thursday evening, one thousand dollars worth of jewelry was stolen from the room of one of the guests. A porter in the hotel, named Michael Flynn, was yesterday committed, in default of a thousand dollars bail, on suspicion of having taken the property.

Mr. William H. Duke, of No. 30 Delancey street, was severely stabbed in the arm by some man unknown to him, on Thursday night, on the corner of Delancey street and the Bowery. A man named James Mullen was also seriously stabbed in the face early yesterday morning by some unknown person, on the corner of New Bowery and Oliver street. Both assailants escaped.

Washington and Fortress Monroe telegrams two or three days behind time—not an unusual thing—send us accounts of the capture of the blockade running schooners Lucy, Sybil and another, whose name is not given; the disappearance of yellow fever at Newborn, N. C., and many other things, all of which were mentioned in the HERALD some days since.

A large fire, which consumed many fine stores and dwellings, occurred in Newbern, North Carolina, on last Sunday.

It may be interesting to those who desire to exempt themselves in advance from the anticipated draft to know that by applying at the establishment of our Supervisors' Volunteering Committee they can procure a substitute for one year for two hundred and twenty dollars, for two years for four hundred and thirty dollars, and for three years for six hundred and fifty dollars. More substitutes are being offered than there are principals ready to take them up.

In the United States District Court yesterday Judge Nelson delivered judgment in the case of Benoit Julien Caujolle *et al.* against John P. Ferrie and Cyrus Curtis, the defendants being the administrators of the estate of Jane La Lux, and the plaintiffs, French aliens, claiming to be the next of kin to the deceased. The estate is worth some $70,000, but is principally invested in bonds and mortgages upon property in this State. The case is brought up upon a plea to the bill of complaint which puts in bar of the suit the adjudication of the Surrogate's Court in favor of Ferrie, one of the defendants, as the person next in kin. The Court overruled the plea, and the defendants have leave to answer.

The collision case of the steamer Scotia and the schooner E. H. Parker was decided in the United States District Court yesterday, Judge Nelson giving judgment in it. The case turned mainly upon a question of fact as to whether or not the schooner, after having been seen by the steamer, changed her course by porting her helm and bearing to the east, thereby crossing the course or track of the steamer. Judge Nelson affirmed the decree of the Court below that the steamer was not in fault.

In the General Sessions yesterday Michael Gillen was tried on a charge of stealing, on the 18th of October, one hundred and eighty dollars from James Mulligan, while he was at work in Dutch street. The defendant proved that the complainant was intoxicated, and that Gillen told the officer he kept the money for him because he was so drunk. Having established his good character, the jury rendered a verdict of not guilty. Peter Curran, indicted for robbery in the first degree, having assaulted James E. Davenport on the 8th inst., while he was going into his boarding house, in Pearl street, was convicted of assault and battery and remanded for sentence. Two other men were concerned in the assault, but the complainant only lost about three dollars. Catharine Columbus was tried and convicted of grand larceny, she having stolen one hundred dollars from Conrad Blatner, a European soldier, at a disreputable house in Catharine street, on the 14th of October. The prosecuting officer had a number of cases prepared, which, for want of time to try them, were put over till Monday. The Grand Jury presented a large batch of indictments, and, having finished all the cases presented for their disposition, Judge Russel discharged them with the thanks of the Court.

The examination in the police court at Toronto, on last Tuesday and Wednesday, of Captain Bell, the alleged Lake Erie rebel pirate, charged with having been concerned in the seizure a short time ago of the American steamers Island Queen and Philo Parsons, was quite interesting. Bell, who denies his identity, was fully recognized by witnesses. He is about thirty years of age. On the conclusion of the two days preliminary investigation, Bell was committed to jail to await a regular trial, which will be commenced some time next week.

The prominent feature in the celebration of Thanksgiving Day in Louisville, Ky., was the opening by a New York company of a new street railway. Crowds of citizens thronged the line of the road, and as many of them as could get on the cars were treated to free rides.

The stock market was dull and weak yesterday. Gold was heavy, and, after opening at 220¾, closed at 219¼. Government securities were strong at an advance.

There was scarcely anything done in commercial circles yesterday, and, so far as business was concerned, it was almost a virtual continuation of "Thanksgiving Day." The fluctuations in gold unsettled the market, but neither buyers nor sellers were inclined to operate. The business transactions may be found in our commercial column. On 'Change the flour market was dull and 5c. a 10c. lower. The wheat market was unsettled by the fall in gold. Corn continues scarce and 3c. a 4c. higher. Oats 1c. a 2c. higher. Pork was dull and lower. Beef firm and in good demand. Lard quiet but firm. Whiskey a shade firmer, and rather more active. Freights quiet.

The Rebels Wrangling—The Fire-Eaters Rampant—The Peace Men Bristling Up—A Terrible Picture of Exhaustion.

In the late debates in the rebel Congress—a report of which we published yesterday—the reader will have discovered that the rebel leaders are wrangling, that the fire-eaters are rampant, but that the peace men among them are also beginning to bristle up and show fight. In all these things the evidence accumulates of a widening demoralization in Rebeldom, which before long will culminate in a crushing collapse.

In the debates in question we have also some interesting disclosures of the military exhaustion of "the confederacy." Mr. Staples, of Virginia, from the Select Committee to inquire into the expediency of appealing to the several States in order to effect a decrease of military exemptions under State authority, demanded action on the subject. He said "the records of the bureau of conscription exhibit more than thirty thousand exemptions of able-bodied males between eighteen and forty-five:—In Virginia, one thousand four hundred; North Carolina, fourteen thousand six hundred; South Carolina, four hundred; Alabama, one thousand and seventy-four; Mississippi, one hundred and ten; Georgia, from twelve to fifteen thousand, or more, besides a large number of railroad employes, &c., whom the Governor (State Rights Brown) refuses to have enrolled." Thus it appears that all the exempts from military service in "the confederacy" between eighteen and forty-five, from Richmond to the Mississippi river, are not equal in number to the able-bodied men between eighteen and forty-five at this day in the city of Brooklyn. No wonder the Richmond organs are clamorous for a black draft upon the cotton plantations, when there are, for example, only fourteen hundred able-bodied white men left in rebellious Virginia exempt from military service, and they are to be called on.

That pernicious Southern heresy of State rights, it seems, is also returning to plague its inventors. North Carolina and Georgia, before the war, were rather opposed to this heresy as a South Carolina abomination; but since the war they have been using it to some purpose in protecting a portion of their able-bodied men against the remorseless conscriptions of Davis, while Old Virginia, South Carolina, Alabama and Mississippi, in their blind obedience to King Jeff., have been almost literally cleaned out. Hence this outbreak of the fire-eaters against Georgia and North Carolina. Mr. Staples, of Virginia, has made a discovery. He says that Southern State sovereignty will be dished when Lee's army is demolished; that "when that army melts away neither trial by jury, nor habeas corpus, nor State rights will save us from extermination." We commend this rebel view of State rights to the special consideration of the Hon. Ben. Wood.

But Mr. J. T. Leach, of North Carolina, has no idea of surrendering his State exempts to the Moloch of this rebellion. He says that North Carolina has already furnished Davis as food for powder, *one hundred and eighteen thousand men, one-third of whom lie under the soil of Virginia.* All this, too, from the white population, which, by the census of 1860, was many thousands less than that of New Jersey. Had the loyal States been depleted at this rate, *New York city alone would have been drained of one hundred and fifty thousand men for the war, and the State outside the city of five hundred thousand more!* Is not this a terrible picture of the consuming work in the South of the sweeping conscriptions of Davis! Can anybody wonder that, having thus exhausted their white men, the rebel politicians are beginning to wrangle with the slaveholders for their negroes, and with their States, for the surrender of their scattering white exempts and their State rights? But Leach, of North Carolina, will not stand it. He says, "I want it to be known that I endorse every word that Governor Brown (of Georgia) or Mr. Stephens has written. I endorse the letter of Mr. Boyce, of South Carolina" (a peace and reconstruction letter.) He says, too, "when they are arrested and tried before a mock court martial and hung, I ask the poor privilege of being hung with them. I am entirely opposed to the trampling down of State rights in this manner." Thus the feud between Southern fire-eaters and peace men waxes hotter and hotter, and is becoming exceedingly interesting.

This particular debate was wound up by Mr. Foote, of Tennessee, with a defence of Alexander H. Stephens and State rights, and a string of resolutions, embracing this peace offering, to wit:—"That should propositions of peace emanate from the government of the United States, unaccompanied by a recognition of our independence, but comprehensive and satisfactory in other respects, it will be the duty of this government (Jeff. Davis) to submit said propositions of peace, without delay, to the sovereign States of the South, for their calm and deliberate consideration, either in joint or separate convention, as may be deemed most wise." This is bristling up to the fire-eaters in earnest. There is trouble among the happy family at Richmond. They are in a dreadful stew. They have evidently heard from Sherman. Whether the next news will be that Georgia has abandoned "the confederacy," or that Lee's army, Jeff. Davis, Cabinet, Congress and all, have skedaddled from Richmond, we cannot tell. We expect both these things to be matters of history before Christmas.

Public Amusements—New York Destined to be the Art Capital of the World.

The public amusements of this city for last night were of a very noteworthy character for their number, variety and excellence. Not that last night was so much richer in this respect than our nights usually are. It was rather a fair representative of the excellence and high standard of our public entertainments, and the occasion was noteworthy in so far as it affords a fair occasion to point out how much New York is ahead of other cities in this respect. First on the list stands a representation of one of Shakspere's plays. No playgoer has seen Shakspere presented with attraction more likely to draw and charm the true lover of the drama since the days when Shakspere himself appeared in his own plays. Three parts in the tragedy of Julius Cæsar were personated by actors of the first merit—a thing that can hardly be seen in any city but ours. Only English cities could hope to rival us in this; and England does not now possess three tragedians, or even one, comparable to any one of the Booths. Moreover, if there were three men of such ability on the British stage, audiences would hope in vain to see them all together in one play.

Second on the list we have the opera. The operatic performance last night was also an almost unrivalled one. An opera never before played in this city was produced with a magnificence and richness that no European performance could surpass, and that few can equal, and with singers whose reputation is first rate in Europe, drawn hither, as all that is good in Europe is, by the liberality of our people. In respect to singers also we bid fair to distance Europe with home productions. Some of our best are native Americans, and the greatest musical sensation recently experienced on the other side of the water was created by that melodious little New Yorker, Miss Patti. Last night we also had a performance at the Broadway theatre by one of the best comic actors now on the stage, Mr. Owens. We had an admirable performance at Wallack's theatre, with a company of more general excellence than can be found elsewhere. Admirable performances also, with first rate companies, at the Olympic and at Niblo's theatre. Good performances at two theatres in the Bowery suitable to the strong taste of the eastern districts, and we had the usual variety of negro minstrelsy at the several halls devoted to that species of popular, national and original music and fun. We had a good circus performance, an exhibition of wild animals—an itinerant zoological garden—a German theatre, and, though we did not have last night, we do have twice a week, an admirable performance in the French language.

All these entertainments were well patronized, as indeed our entertainments always are. Our people have a taste for this species of recreation, and the distribution of the wealth of the community is so general that all are enabled to gratify it to some extent. These facts all point to the conclusion that New York is growing as rapidly in art as it has grown in commerce; and they seem to promise that at no very distant day it will be the art capital of the world. We will produce entirely our own actors and plays, our singers and operas. All the novelty that will charm in other cities will go from ours, and every impulse of life that shall stir the histrionic or lyric world will originate here.

Our Gifts to Public Men—Gold and Silver Elephants.

In Eastern countries, according to veracious travellers, when one nobleman wants to ruin another, he makes him a present of a white elephant. This animal is sacred, and has a prodigious appetite. He cannot be killed; he must not be given away again, and he costs a large fortune to feed. A retinue of servants must be hired to wait upon him, and a special building has to be erected for his accommodation. Under these circumstances the unhappy recipient of this princely gift soon finds that his friend, the giver, has been too much for him, and he either leaves the world or the country, or violates etiquette and presents the mammoth nuisance to some other unfortunate.

In this country we have a habit of forcing white elephants in gold and silver upon our public men. Almost every one of our generals has two or three elegant and useless fancy swords, valued at a great deal of money and worth nothing to him. General Banks has twenty thousand dollars worth of these beautiful toys. A few days ago the citizens of Roxbury gave Captain Winslow a service of silver. Twenty thousand dollars has been collected in this city for a similar testimonial to this gallant sailor. Yesterday morning we gave the particulars of the presentation of silver plate to Commodore Rodgers. Ericsson was recently the recipient of a gold model of a Monitor, which cost ten thousand dollars. Captain Williams, of the Sound steamers, is to be made miserable by a model of his vessel in gold and silver, now on exhibition on Broadway. Such incidents are happening almost every day, and while they show the wealth and the generosity of our citizens, they also show a great want of practical sense upon the part of those who select the donations.

What is the use of these white elephants in silver and gold? What can the recipients do with them? So many knives and forks, so many spoons and so many teapots and coffeepots are all one can use in his family, and the rest have to be put away in a bank vault, where they are never seen, since it is not safe to keep such valuables in the house. Captain Winslow has just been robbed of one silver service by burglars, and this new set, from the good people of Roxbury, is only an invitation for the burglars to call again. Commodore Rodgers is going to sea, and his silver must go into the bank. Ericsson dare not keep his gold model out of his safe, and Captain Williams will find his toy boat harder to manage than his real vessel. In old times we used to give our merchant captains silver trumpets when they made fast voyages; but many a captain's family has since been without a good meal with all this waste silver in the best room. Captain Ezra Nye, of the old Liverpool packet line, had a host of such trinkets, and they were all burned to worthless dross at a fire in New Jersey. No doubt the captain, who is quite a wealthy man, was very glad to get rid of all his white elephants so respectably. The city of Baltimore gave Commodore Decatur a splendid service of plate. The Commodore's widow was reluctantly compelled to sell it—such is the gratitude of republics!—and, when it was bought in for her by a few friends, she was obliged to sell it again, and we purchased it at an auction in this city for Commodore Barney, in whose family it is still preserved. These instances, and many more we might mention, prove that the money subscribed for such donations is really misspent.

In England they do these things much more sensibly, and we are beginning to follow their example. Parliament presented the Duke of Wellington with an estate valued at a quarter of a million sterling, and allowed him to select it for himself. The reform party in England made Cobden a present of sixty thousand pounds invested in the funds. Several New Yorkers clubbed together and gave General McClellan a handsome house up town, which will always be a home for himself and his children. General Grant's wife has been presented with ten thousand dollars worth of government stocks, and gets her interest in gold. General Meade was recently blessed with a house in Philadelphia, where his wife resides. Such gifts as these are not white elephants. They make the recipients happy and do not cost any more than swords and tea sets. Burglars cannot steal them easily, and if fires destroy them, there is the insurance. Instead of costing a great deal to keep, they pay well for their own keeping and grow more valuable every year. A dandy once said that he did not wear a mustache because he could not afford to dress up to it; and upon the same principle most people cannot afford to use services of plate, which, like the white elephant, require plenty of servants and costly surroundings. Officers of the army and navy are not very rich, as a class, and few of them are economical. There would be comfort for them in the reflection that their mothers, wives and children were sure of support from stocks or rentals; but, amid the daily dangers of death, no soldier can find much comfort in the reflection that if anything happens to him his poor family will have to live upon a magnificent sword, which they would be ashamed to sell. In every point of view, then, useful testimonials are best; for they cost no more to the donors, are equally complimentary to the recipients, and are of substantial value whatever may occur. We would rather encourage than reprove the custom of giving gifts to good and brave men; but we are in favor of gifts of United States stocks or real estate, rather than of jewelry and silver ware. Let the New York testimonial to Captain Winslow take one or the other of these practical forms, and let us resolve not to increase the perils of popularity by afflicting him with a white elephant.

A HINT FOR MOSBY.—It seems that Mosby, the rebel guerilla, has been hanging seven of our men by way of retaliation, and in a letter to General Sheridan he threatens to hang several more. When Mosby hears the news from Sherman and finds the confederacy tumbling about his ears he will probably change his policy. We might take it into our heads to hang Mosby some fine day. That would not be very agreeable to him; but if he goes on in his present course it is a contingency not at all impossible and by no means improbable.

"NEWS FROM PARNASSUS"—IGNORANCE AND INDECENCIES OF THE WORLD.—The scholars of the *World* have evidently not yet emerged from the smoke of the political canvass. They have neither regained their equanimity of temper nor their clearness of perception—complimenting them by the supposition that they ever possessed either.

In a jocular paragraph in our editorial columns, some few days ago, we alluded to an expression of the President's—"a big thing"—as borrowed from the *"Res magna est"* of Terence, the Roman dramatist. The *World* takes this up in a vein of the most ludicrous solemnity, accuses us of paying the President "a spaniel-like compliment," with other personal imputations in the same taste, and ends by an attempt to overwhelm us with a flood of classical learning from the same Roman author—only succeeding, however, in overwhelming all common sense and candor. The servant of Chremes (and, by-the bye, his master had not lost an election), in the "Heauton Timorumenos," showed much more good sense when he exclaimed,

Jocon' an serio illuc dicat, nescio;

or, freely rendered into Anglo-Saxon, "I wonder whether the fellow is serious or only poking fun?" The Bohemian literati of the *World*, however, can obviously see nothing except in the light of their sombre resentments, all their ruminations appearing as gloomy and fantastic as those of the Greek "Self-tormentor."

We might pardon them for losing their temper, as they lost the election, but they have no excuse for forgetting their manners. What a wretched joke, to say nothing of its coarseness, is that about *"Big Juno,"* (the italics are the *World's*) especially for its female readers! It would have been just suited to the taste of the Five Points before the recent purification of that benighted region by the efforts of the saints. But the editors are not even satisfied with having this indelicacy in the shape of an insuendo. They think it necessary to elaborate their meaning in plain words; and we are told that "the jealous spouse of Jupiter" is—we quote—in an "interesting situation," and so forth.

We exonerate the *savans* of the *World* from all personal responsibility in the affair—so far as Juno is concerned—except for the bad taste of their joke, which is of the very poorest quality. We have always heard that they aspired to being considered the greatest—or suppose we say the "biggest"—admirers of the female sex:—

Amatores multerum esse auditerum est magnos.

Now, we would not willingly disparage their capabilities in any way; and we therefore cheerfully, in justice to them, give it as our best judgment that the rest of the sentence, *sed nihil potuisse*—the translation of which we omit from tenderness to the feelings of our readers—is not applicable either to them or to any one of their number.

To be serious, it is very rarely that we have known sensible men so stultify themselves. They have lost their temper and their manners, as well as the election; and the jokes they have attempted to perpetrate in ridicule of Mr. Lincoln's classical attainments are as cold and unprolific as the season:—

Jejuni jocus Decembris.

In fact, we may say, in the language of their favorite "fastidiously delicate author:"—

[Ibi] Hercle! magno jam conatu magnas nugas disserunt

or, to translate for the benefit of the country members, "they have, by a 'big' effort, succeeded in delivering themselves of a 'big' heap of nonsense."

And now one parting word of advice to the *World's* sophomores—not from Terence, but from one of his poetic successors. If we should be guilty of a little good-humored pleasantry, at any time hereafter, as is very probable, don't let it ruffle the placidity of your tempers; and, above all, don't make Judys of yourselves by thinking we are serious:—

Non talibus nostros incipe frenare jocos!

PHILADELPHIA AHEAD.—Behind New York in everything that relates to commerce and national greatness, our little sister city of Philadelphia is ahead of the metropolis in one respect, and that, in the words of Terence, is a "big thing." The Quaker citizens have run mad on petroleum. They are far in advance of the New York operators in oil and oil lands, and bestow more money and attention upon the subject than they do upon any other article of commercial value. The formation of petroleum companies commenced in Philadelphia in December last, only about a year ago. It was called the Oil Creek Company, and so prosperous did it become that other stock companies were formed, so that now they are numbered by hundreds, embracing a capital of some seventy or eighty millions of dollars. The Philadelphia newspapers excel those of any other city in their laudation of petroleum enterprises. A new railroad for the convenience of passengers has just gone into operation, and the work of opening the oil regions of Pennsylvania is gone into so thoroughly that the territory may now be said to be literally sold by inches. Governor Curtin, chief magistrate of Pennsylvania, reasserts a former statement made by himself: that the petroleum interest is more valuable than that of the entire coal and iron product of the State. He has gone into the Buchanan Farm Oil Company, and, it appears, cannot get stock enough. Thus we find the staid old citizens of Pennsylvania, and the quaint old denizens of its chief city, from the highest officer in the State down to the humble artisan who can command but a few hundred dollars, infected with this singular oil fever, and running into all sorts of extravagances and speculations. One oil prince, worth a couple of millions and not yet of age, is reported to have bought the Girard House, Philadelphia, and contemplates transforming it into a home for poor and superannuated oil operators. If this philanthropic idea be followed by those who have realized immense fortunes from the oil business, and who are now resident in Boston, Pittsburg, Cleveland, Erie, Chicago and elsewhere, much suffering during the coming winter may be spared to unfortunate speculators. An institution of the kind might be started in New York, where the fever has been raging for some time, but not yet assumed a fatal type. The Hippotron would be admirably suited for the purpose, and its selection would prove a happy coincident to the fact that it had been transformed into a receptacle for those who have been so unlucky as to "see the elliphant." Philadelphia bears off the palm in all matters concerning Petrolia. It enables her to sunk