THE NEW YORK HERALD.

WHOLE NO. 10,665. NEW YORK, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1865. PRICE FOUR CENTS

WASHINGTON.

The Execution of Wirz to Take Place To-day.

No Likelihood of a Reprieve from the President.

Preparations of the Prisoner to Meet His Doom.

Presentation of the Minister of the Argentine Republic to the President.

SENTENCE IN THE CASE OF GEN. BRISCOE.

He is Dishonorably Dismissed the Service, with the Loss of All Pay and Allowances.

&c. &c. &c.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 9, 1865.

REPARATIONS FOR THE EXECUTION OF WIRZ TO-DAY.

The looked for execution of Wirz to-morrow is exciting more remark and occupying the public mind to a much greater degree than did the hanging of the conspirators. This is probably due to the fact of the extended notice given in this instance beforehand, while in the case of the former execution scarcely more than ten hours of daylight intervened between the public announcement and the appearance of the condemned upon the scaffold. Wirz is said to be in better condition to-day, physically and mentally, than any time during his confinement. He has had considerable sleep, a moderate appetite, and appears to gain more stamina as his hours of lifetime approach the last. His spiritual adviser, Father Boyle, was with him during much of the afternoon, and left his cell about a quarter past six this evening. Mr. Schade also visited him after an interview of the former with President Johnson this morning. The interview is known to have been productive of nothing to indicate that Wirz would be reprieved, though on the streets and in the hotels to-night popular belief seems to be gradually and accountably settling into that conviction. Mr. Johnson is known to have met the petition of Mr. Schade for a commutation of the sentence with kind and attentive regard, but uttered nothing to cause a belief that Executive clemency will be exercised in Wirz's case, nor does Mr. Schade entertain the shadow of such a hope.

About five o'clock this afternoon Wirz was called upon by the Chancellor of the Consul General of Switzerland, who stated that he had just delivered to the President, in accordance with direction of the Consul, a document from the latter urging the commutation of the death sentence. The Chancellor was also charged to proffer any assistance to Wirz that he might need in communicating his wishes to his family and countrymen after death. Wirz replied, with some bitterness, that he had no commissions to intrust, and that the Consul General had done him irreparable injury when he had refused, during the progress of his trial, to receive the contributions of his friends that were offered to obtain him every advantage that he could summon for his acquittal. He only asked that the aspersions that had been cast upon his previous character, and forged in this country as coming from public journals in Switzerland, might be called to the notice of his countrymen in their native land and returned with the unqualified denial they would give.

Wirz intends to occupy most of this, his last night upon earth, in writing, and has obtained permission for Mr. Schade to be admitted, with the Reverend Father in attendance upon him, at eight o'clock to-morrow morning, when he will make final disposition of the letters he has written. Two guards, since the announcement of the sentence to the prisoner, have constantly occupied the cell with him, though he earnestly disclaims any intention of committing suicide. Upon the first introduction of his watchful keepers he exclaimed, with a shrug, that "he should not do away with himself, if by refraining he only achieved the satisfaction of putting the United States government to the expense of hanging him."

Wirz seemed to take considerable satisfaction this morning in exhibiting a letter dated November 2 that he had just received from his wife, now in Cadiz, Kentucky. She had just learned of the termination of her husband's trial, and longed to see him. She remarks that her distress at the necessity for leaving him at this critical moment has been very great, and counsels him not to give way to despair, that all will come right, and that he is never out of her mind. Mrs. Wirz speaks of their past happiness, and cannot believe that the authorities will now tear them apart, and that if the members of the court only knew how they had suffered, a pardon would be granted. She speaks of President Johnson's kindness to the Southern people, and says that it gives her hope that her husband will be dealt with leniently. The last paragraph of the letter reads as follows, and, taken with its whole tenor, would indicate that there was no foundation for the assertion that there was no kindly feeling between Wirz and his wife:—

DEAR HUSBAND—Bear up bravely, whatever your fate may be. If I could but see you for one short hour I should be so much comforted. I cannot describe to you on paper the distress of my mind. May angels watch and protect you from all harm, is the constant prayer of your loving wife.

The prisoner was asked by a lady to-day whether he had hope as to another world. He replied, "Madam, I have hope; the greatest sinner has hope, and why should I not—I, feeling myself innocent of the charges for which I have to suffer?"

RECEPTION OF THE MINISTER OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC BY THE PRESIDENT.

Colonel Don Domingo F. Sormiento was to-day introduced to the President by the Secretary of State, and delivered his credentials as Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Argentine Republic. He made the following remarks on the occasion:—

The letter of credence appointing me Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Argentine Republic to the United States came directed to the lamented Abraham Lincoln, whose death took place about the time of my arrival here. Renewed now, in accordance with diplomatic custom, and directed to yourself, I am instructed by my government to express to you, on placing it in your hands, the profound grief with which the Argentine Republic people received the account of that tragical event, and also to congratulate you upon the honor of succeeding that noble victim in the work of securing the prosperity of this great republic. Our own government was formerly, your Excellency knows, part of the people who formerly constituted the vice royalty of Buenos Ayres; and less by the will of statesmen than by the force of circumstances and the unfolding of events the revolution has been completed and a federal organization constituted. The only step which has been the result of deliberate forethought was to conform its institutions to your own, believing that an experiment so happy in its results as yours should be taken as a lesson and model, relieving us from the necessity of inventing new political combinations that are dangerous inasmuch as they have not the sanction of experience. So it has come to pass that in the questions which are raised by its practical workings Story and your other commentators are consulted and their doctrines followed, as are the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States in analogous cases in the jurisprudence of our own tribunals. Nor will the solution which the recent war has given to disputed points here be barren for our government. It is well understood, moreover, that it would not be sufficient to adopt mere forms, if we did not establish the republic on the basis on which it rests here, by developing the intelligence of the people there by a system of general education. To the names of Washington, Franklin and Lincoln is added to-day that of Horace Mann, to be respected by our people; and, to serve the purpose of him, proving the lessons which they have left to humanity, along with the instructions of my government is included the study of the system of public education which ennobles and perpetuates liberty, to cause by its influence, if not by its policy, that the republic shall be in America synonymous with the prosperous and intellectual development of the people. A guarantee of the independence of the present government and a model of international impartiality, the internal peace is the noble mission of the United States; and to cultivate with it a government the sentiment of fraternity which the institutions established between your great republic and our rising one, is our ardent wish and my honorable and pleasant duty.

To which the President replied:—

MR. SORMIENTO—I regret the delay that has attended your appearance here as the Minister of the Argentine Republic. I thank you and your government for the just tribute you have paid to the memory of my predecessor. Believe me, sir, that it is a source of enduring gratification to the people of the United States that they have framed for themselves a constitution for their civil government which so many of the new, enterprising and enlightened States which are growing up on this continent have thought worthy to be adopted by them as a model. The fact, however, is one which has brought with it to us a great responsibility of conducting the administration of our cherished system in such a manner as to maintain, preserve and increase the confidence of mankind. This consideration is by itself sufficient to induce us to regard the republics on this continent with special favor and affection. I trust, therefore, that you will readily accept the assurance that we receive you with pleasure on this occasion as the representative of the Argentine Republic. The pleasure is enhanced by the remembrance of the fact that the proceedings of that republic, so far as we have had intercourse with it, have been eminently just and cordially friendly. I trust your government will excuse me for expressing my regret that the Argentine Republic is at the present moment encountering the evils of a foreign war. I hope its calamities may be mitigated, and that the issue may involve no detriment to the republic or the cause of republicanism.

THE MEXICAN MINISTER.

The rumors on the street late this evening that Senor Romero, the Mexican Minister, had asked for his passports, with the intention of returning to his government, can be traced to no credible authority, and are supposed to emanate from interested Philadelphians.

THE DIFFICULTIES IN PREPARING FOR TRIALS FOR TREASON.

It is known that President Johnson has expressed the greatest anxiety to bring to a legal issue the question whether treason is a crime, and whether it can as such be punished. The following from to-day's *National Republican* is believed to be substantially correct:—

The President has not only consulted his constitutional advisers, his Cabinet and the proper law officers of the government on the subject, but he has also invited to this council some of the most eminent constitutional and criminal lawyers in the land. Among these may be named Chief Justice Chase, who came here from Ohio some time in August last, at the special invitation of the President, to consult on the general subject of trials for treason. Subsequently, about the 1st of October last, President Johnson addressed a letter to Chief Justice Chase, informing him that it might become necessary for the government to prosecute some high crimes and misdemeanors committed against the United States within the District of Virginia, Chief Justice Chase's circuit, and inquiring whether the Circuit Court of the United States for that district is so far organized and in condition to exercise its functions that the Chief Justice or either of the associates of the Supreme Court would hold a term of the Circuit Court there during the autumn or early winter for the trial of causes. About the middle of October Chief Justice Chase replied to the President. He positively stated that his Circuit Court for the district of Virginia, either to be presided over by himself or one of his associates, would not hold a term during the autumn or early winter. He stated that the regular term authorized by Congress would commence this year on the 27th of November, the present month, only one week before the annual term of the Supreme Court when all the Judges are required to be present, allowing but one week for the Circuit Court to sit, which in the opinion of the Chief Justice would be too short a term for the transaction of any very important business. But the Chief Justice adds that were, the facts otherwise, he so much doubts the propriety of holding Circuit Courts of the United States in States which have been declared by the Executive and Legislative Departments of the national government to be in rebellion, and therefore subjected to martial law before the complete restoration of their broken relations with the nation and the supersedure of the military by the civil administration, that he would be unwilling to hold such courts in such States within his circuit, which includes Virginia, until Congress shall have had an opportunity to consider and act on the whole subject. The Chief Justice expressed to the President the opinion that a civil court in a district under martial law can only act by the sanction and under the supervision of the military power; and he positively asserts that he could not think that it becomes the Justices of the Supreme Court to exercise jurisdiction under such conditions.

THE SENTENCE OF GENERAL BRISCOE.

The sentence in the case of Brevet Brigadier General Joseph C. Briscoe, Colonel of the One Hundred and Ninety-ninth Pennsylvania Volunteers, tried by the court martial of which Major General G. S. Green was President, upon the charges of larceny, in violation of an act of Congress approved March 3, 1863, and conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline, has just been promulgated from the War Department. The order concludes as follows:—

And the court does therefore sentence him, Brevet Brigadier General Joseph C. Briscoe, Colonel One Hundred and Ninety-ninth Pennsylvania Volunteers, to be cashiered and dishonorably dismissed the United States service, and be forever disqualified from holding any office of honor, trust or profit under the United States government; that he forfeit all pay and allowances now due, or which may become due to him, and to be confined at hard labor, at such place of confinement as the Secretary of War may direct, for and during the term of five years.

The findings and sentence are approved and confirmed; but in view of the high testimonials to the former good character and gallantry of General Briscoe, by Generals Meade, Hancock, Stoneman, Gibbons, Terry and Sickles, so much of the sentence as imposes confinement is remitted by order of the President of the United States.

E. D. TOWNSEND, A. A. General.

By order of the Secretary of War he was this morning discharged from custody, and has since devoted considerable time to billiards at Willard's in company with many military friends. He will go to New York to-morrow, and from thence to the South, where he has landed possessions.

CHANGES IN THE MARINE FORCES.

The death of Lieutenant Colonel Reynolds at New York has occasioned the following important changes in the command of Marine stations:—Colonel William Shuttleworth, United States Marine corps, detached from the Navy Yard at Philadelphia and ordered to command the Marine barracks in the Brooklyn Navy Yard; Major T. Y. Field, detached from the Washington Navy Yard and ordered to succeed Colonel Shuttleworth at Philadelphia; Captain Charles Heywood, detached from the recruiting rendezvous at Philadelphia and ordered to the Washington Navy Yard; Captain G. P. Houston, detached from headquarters and ordered to rendezvous at Philadelphia; Captain L. L. Dawson and Lieutenant J. M. T. Young, ordered to Pensacola, Fla. Further changes are expected to be made at Norfolk, Va., and Mound City, Ill.

DEPARTURE OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION.

The delegation of Fox Indians from the remnant of that tribe at present abiding in Iowa, who have been endeavoring to obtain some portion of the annuities of which they are now deprived by reason of abandoning their reservation in Kansas, started homewards to-night. No decision has been made concerning their requests thus far. Previous to their departure about two hundred dollars worth of presents were distributed among them.

INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFICERS OF CUSTOMS.

The Secretary of the Treasury has issued the following circular instructions to officers of customs authorized to receive moneys for duties on imposts, under date of November 6:—

They are instructed and required to receive in payment of duties on imports gold certificates of deposits issued by the Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer, under the authority of the act of March 3, 1863, which provides that "certificates for coin" shall be so received. Officers are instructed in no case to receive such certificates for duties in excess of the amount to be paid. Should the certificates presented for payment of customs be insufficient the residue must be paid in coin.

CLAIMS AGAINST THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT.

The Joint Commission for the adjustment of the claims of citizens of the United States against the Colombian government, growing out of riots on the Isthmus of Panama in June, 1865, has met and adjourned until Wednesday next, when an umpire will be appointed.

THE INDIAN COMMISSION.

Information has been received at the Indian Bureau, from the commissioners now in the Indian country treating with the Indians, that the season is so far advanced that they are apprehensive of severe winter weather and the closing of navigation, which it is desirable to escape if possible; but, owing to the importance of the duty of the Commission, and in view of an evident decision on the part of the Indians to stop the shedding of blood, the commissioners will remain as long as possible, so as to accomplish all the good that can be done.

THE VETERAN RESERVE CORPS.

It has been ascertained that eighty-five per cent of the six hundred and forty officers of the Veteran Reserve corps have been wounded in battle, some of them as many as seven times; five per cent have become disabled from other causes, and ten per cent from disease contracted in the line of duty. Ninety-one have undergone amputation; and there were eight dissections of the [illegible] There is a probability that this corps will be made permanent by the coming Congress, as its members have rendered important services in war, and it is not doubted that they will efficiently perform their duty in time of peace.

THE PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL'S BUREAU.

The Provost Marshal General's Bureau dies hard. A corporal's guard of clerks are engaged in settling up the affairs of this once terrible branch of the government. It is supposed that Congress will abolish the bureau, and General Fry will return to his rank as Lieutenant Colonel and Assistant Adjutant General.

PERSONAL.

The rebel General Longstreet was at the White House during the day, but had not been accorded an interview with the President at a late hour.

Ex-Governor Billy Smith, of Virginia, and Hon. Robert Dale Owen, of New York, are stopping at the Metropolitan.

APPOINTMENT OF POST SURGEON.

Dr. J. J. Craven has received the appointment of Post Surgeon at Fortress Monroe, the position he has so ably filled there for several months past. His rank is lieutenant colonel. It is a happy and well deserved compliment to one most worthy of it, not alone for his high professional acquirements and social and scholarly culture, but for his long and eminent services during the war as medical director of an army corps.

RETURNS TO THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

Returns the most extensive received during this month of sales of public lands were opened at the General Land Office this morning. At Broonesville, Mo., 16,700 acres are reported entered, accompanied with cash sales to the amount of nearly $4,000. From Lacrosse, Wis., 7,500 acres were entered, with $1,200 of cash sales.

The State of Indiana has notified the Commissioner that she will accept the agricultural land grant awarded her by Congressional enactment.

The Mercantile Library.

CELEBRATION OF THE FORTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY.

The forty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Mercantile Library was celebrated last evening in the reading room of the Institute, Clinton Hall, Astor place. There was an exceedingly large attendance, among which were a number of ladies. The programme was inaugurated by the performance of the grand march from Meyerbeer's posthumous opera of *L'Africaine*, by Dodworth's band. Throughout the evening the following additional pieces of music were performed with considerable taste:—

Scherzo—L'Orologio (The Watch) ..... Arditi.
Waltz—La Messagère d'Amore ..... Gounod.
Rataplan—De la Gloria—Il Forza del Destino ..... Verdi.
March—Medley of Popular Airs ..... Bradley.
Song—I ask you, Pretty Birds ..... Gumbert.
March du Sacre—Le Prophète ..... Meyerbeer.
Galop—Qui Vive ..... Ganz.
Polka—Humoristen ..... Bilse.
Quick March—La Promenade ..... Dodworth.

MR. IRWIN, the President, in rising apologized for the absence of Mr. Hunt, the intended chairman, after which he briefly enumerated the advantages derived from the institution.

The next address was delivered by MR. ISAAC H. BAILEY, ex-president of the institution. He congratulated the audience on this the forty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Mercantile Library. In the year 1820 a notice appeared on the bulletin of the *Daily Advertiser*, calling for a meeting of the merchants' clerks, in order to form a library. This was the first step taken towards the establishment of the magnificent institution they were now in. Everything was very much changed in New York since that day. The entire amount of the city tax at that time little exceeded that which many individuals pay now, and he did not see that much more value was given. True, the Aldermen and Councilmen did not become rich so easily. There was a tradition somewhere that there were honest men in office in those days, but that is hardly consonant with the position of a city magistrate as now it is understood. Meeting with discouragement and reverses, the little band formed at the meeting referred to battled against all, and on November 2, 1830, the hall at the corner of Beekman and Nassau, where the Nassau Bank stands now, was formally opened. At this time there were but one thousand five hundred members, with a library of six thousand volumes. In 1851 the mortgage on the building was cancelled. At this time the hall was found insufficient. Subscriptions were raised, and, in June, 1854, the present hall was opened, a dedicatory service having been given at the Church of the Puritans, together with an address by Governor Seymour, then Governor of New York State. In the years 1855 and 1856 a call was made on the merchants of New York for subscriptions, to which they responded nobly, $77,000 being collected. The institution was still considerably in debt, and in 1864 another call, as nobly responded to, brought in $62,000, which defrayed the entire debt, leaving a surplus which was expended in the purchase of books. The institution is now free of all liabilities, with nearly five thousand members. He concluded by congratulating the citizens of New York on having such an institution, and one which was destined in a few years to become the finest of the description in the world.

THE MAYOR of New York was next introduced, and made a few remarks on the advantages young men in the city were able to obtain from such an institution.

PETER COOPER, Esq., who was received with loud applause, remarked that it gave him considerable pleasure to be present on such an occasion, and to see in what a flourishing condition the Mercantile Library was. The pleasure was intensified by hearing that it was free of all debt. He would advise all young men, in their way through life, to go in debt as seldom as possible. It and demoralization were near neighbors, and the one seldom came without the other following it closely. It was a principle he had always followed, and which he knew from experience to be the most correct. The fount of knowledge open to the youth of our land here should be freely partaken of by all. Knowledge, learning and labor were three of the great signs of a nation's progress. As she was educated so she was sure to be respected; and as her sons labored, so would they become prosperous. He sat down amid loud applause.

JOHN COCHRANE, Esq., would not inflict a speech upon his audience; the days of speechmaking had just past. A train of thought passed through his mind as he had sat and listened. He had won some few distinctions in his lifetime, but the thing of which he was most proud and which he prized the highest was his having been elected an honorary member of the Mercantile Library Association. He saw before him the youth of the country who were about taking the first reach in the great voyage of life, towards the goal of which he and the other speakers were fast approaching. All were candidates for that glory and honor which, in a free land, such as America, were attainable by all. He looked upon them as a co-operator, and would give them "God speed," which, on the sultry road of life, sometimes encourages and always inspires the weary wayfarer. The sound of war was fast dying away in the distance, and peace was toning her harmonies over the land. Not a sigh of a bondman disturbs the atmosphere of a regenerated republic. The flag of America now waves freely over a free land, but not more freely nor more glorious than the flag of knowledge here. From every hill and dell, from the banks of the mighty river and the flowing stream, the youth of the land come armed in the panoply of American enterprise, and eager in the struggle for fame. Here, in these halls, young men sit—as Alexandrian says—in that great library of old, but with more facilities for drinking of the sparkling and pellucid waters of literature and success. Resolution in the cradle and effort in youth were sure to bring about success in age. This was shown in the establishment of the Mercantile Library. Much work had been done by the young men of our city, but he would exhort them to stand by their works and let their glory culminate; to let no jocund song or wanton dance dissuade them from doing their duty to themselves and their country; to live so as to command their own respect and the applause of their associates.

Loud and renewed applause followed Mr. Cochrane's address.

THE CHAIRMAN read a letter from A. T. Stewart, regretting his inability to be present, after which the visitors promenaded the spacious halls of the building, while the band performed an admirable selection of music.

The Harris Divorce Case.

THE DECISION OF JUDGE PHELPS ADVERSE TO MRS. HARRIS.

NEW LONDON, Conn., Nov. 9, 1865.

In the Harris divorce case Judge Phelps has rendered a decision granting a divorce to Jonathan N. Harris against Mrs. Jane M. Harris. He gets a complete divorce and the custody of all his children, and she gets no alimony. By the laws of Connecticut both can marry if they choose.

VIOLIN SOLOS.—At Steinway's Hall a rather novel musical entertainment took place yesterday afternoon, when Monsieur Jehin Prume appeared before a select party of gentlemen and ladies, who were treated to some of his famous solo performances on the violin. This was his first performance in this city; but Mons. Prume is a well known solo performer, and two years ago occupied the position of a solo violinist to the King of the Belgians. The *fantasie brillante*, which formed a part of the programme, is his own composition, and forms an illustration of his talent as a composer and performer of violin solos. It is a composition of the most brilliant variations of violin performances, for which he, of course, uses an instrument of the most improved pattern. *Melancolie*, by F. Prume, quite a famous piece of solo music, was rendered by M. Prume with telling effect, and his performances were fully appreciated by his small audience of experts. The third and last piece performed was Leonard's *Souvenir d'Haydn*. Mons. Prume has lately returned from Mexico, where he has given his solo performances at the Court of Maximilian, from whom he received the Order of Guadalupe. He contemplates giving a series of solo concerts, which are to take place at Irving Hall.

OPERA IN THE WEST.

Mr. Grau's Chicago Campaign—The New Troupe in Faust Last Evening—Immense Success.

CHICAGO, Nov. 9, 1865.

This evening an entirely new cast appeared in Faust, none of the artists having sung in Trovatore last night. It was the first appearance of each of them in America. The cast was as follows:—Signorina Leonilda Boschetti as Marguerite, Mlle. Olga Olgini as Siebel, Signor Anastasi as Faust, Signor Felice Brandini as Mephistopheles, and Signor Augustus Fellini as Valentin.

The house was again well filled. Faust is exceedingly popular, and there was evidently much anxiety to see and hear the new instalment of Grau's triple company. At first the artists were diffident, and the audience waited patiently for a demonstration of their powers; but they had not to wait long, for the second act was very finely sung. Anastasi is a tenore di Grazia, with a clear, sweet voice, highly sympathetic and of great freshness withal. He is a handsome tenor, and made a sensation among the ladies. The Mephistopheles of Brandini was a splendid piece of acting. His voice is not profound, however—the cold of the climate evidently affected it—but the high notes are very fine. Signora Boschetti is incomparably the best Marguerite we have seen on the American stage. She has a beautiful face and a tall, graceful figure, and her acting was a combination of infinite grace and simplicity, and in the garden scene fairly held the audience spellbound. She recalled at once the sentiment of Goethe and the ideality of Schaefer. We are not surprised that the Italians invested her with the title of the Queen of Marguerites. Signorina Olgini made a charming Siebel. She is quite young, exceedingly pretty and *petite*, and carried the house by storm in the flower song, which she had to repeat. Boschetti made such a triumph in Marguerite that Grau will probably be compelled to deviate from his design of not repeating any opera.

To-morrow evening *Ernani* will be produced, with Noel Guidi, Musiani, Orlandini and a new basso (Ladislaus Milleri) in the cast.

Grau has at his command the largest opera troupe ever engaged by any impressario in the country, and he appears disposed to employ them to the full desire of the public. Several operas are now in daily rehearsal under the unflagging exertions of Muzio—among them *L'Africaine*, *Saffo*, *Lenore*, *Semiramide*, *Otello* and *William Tell*. The scenery for *L'Africaine*, from the Paris models, is superb, as we can testify from a careful examination. The costumes, which were made in Paris, by Nannon, are also exceedingly beautiful.

Gazzaniga has not yet appeared, but is announced for Thursday next, in *Favorita*. The public are anxious to hear this shining star of the company, and the announcement is greeted with unmistakable satisfaction.

Opera in the provinces has hitherto been of a purely experimental character. Until the present season no manager has ventured to make arrangements for it in the Eastern and Western cities independent of such resources as the metropolis affords. The lovers of music outside this favored centre of the arts had to wait patiently until we had used up whatever freshness of attraction was to be found in the singers imported here. This did very well so long as operatic matters were carried on here with energy and liberality; but as soon as it was found that they had fallen into the hands of mere speculators, whose only object was to make money, regardless of the interests of art, and whose policy it was to engage only third and fourth rate singers, the people of the provinces determined to render themselves musically independent of us. They began by building several splendid opera houses in the leading cities, and the erection of that in Chicago completed the chain of arrangements necessary to effect their object. This accomplished, Mr. Grau was encouraged to proceed to Europe and engage such a troupe as would throw our New York undertakings into the shade. How well he has performed his task, and how humiliatingly we are now playing second fiddle to a city that has sprung up like a fungus in the wilderness, is no secret to those who have any acquaintance with musical affairs. But let the people of the metropolis find out all this for themselves. If they are satisfied to be humbugged they can afford to pay for their whistle. We have to deal at present with that section of the country in which music is exhibiting the most marked evidences of progress, and, as its centre and vital source, the following description of the new Chicago Opera House cannot fail to interest our readers:—

This magnificent building is one of the most elegant and commodious of its kind in the world, and is situated in Washington street, midway between Randolph and Madison streets and State and Dearborn streets—the very centre of the fashionable part of the city, and easily accessible by street railways. The style of the exterior is modern French, with dormer windows in the roof, and was designed by Mr. Volk, the well known sculptor. It is four stories high, and is faced with Athens marble. The centre of the front, for a width of twenty-three feet, projects in a semicircular form—a feature which also exists in the new theatres of Antwerp and Mayence. The grand entrance is of marble, seventeen feet wide by twenty-five feet high. The spandrils are elaborately carved and crowned with tasteful medallion cornices, surmounted by a parapet containing pedestals for four statues of the Muses, from the chisel of Mr. Volk.

The lower part of the building is devoted to music and confectionery stores, and in the second story there are accommodations for artists' studios.

The auditorium and stage occupy the entire rear of the building, and cover eighty-six feet wide by one hundred and fifty feet in depth and sixty feet from parquet to ceiling. Access to the auditorium is gained through the opening in the centre of the front, up a flight of stairs, with quaint carvings on either side, then through the corridor or passage above mentioned and three large door openings. In connection with this corridor are two spacious rooms, with apartments for the toilet and wardrobe of visitors. The means of egress are ample, not only through the doors for ingress, but also through openings prepared specially for that purpose, and leading into State street.

The auditorium is eighty-six feet wide by ninety feet in depth, and is divided as follows:—First, the orchestra, parquet and the dress circle on the main floor. Second, the balcony circle, with private boxes in the centre and open sofa seats. Third, the family circle. The orchestra is ten feet wide by thirty-six feet in length. The parquet and parquet dress circle are composed of sofas made of solid black walnut, and a number of orchestra chairs of large dimensions and of unusual elegance and comfort occupy the front. The balcony circle is marked by its division into fifty-six private boxes near the centre of the house; these are furnished with elegant carpets and chairs. The balcony and family circles are supported by light iron columns with ornamented capitals, whence spring finely carved brackets, supporting the extended balcony. These brackets are carved with grotesque faces and quaint devices of various kinds. The main cornice of the auditorium is supported from the walls by projecting corbels, ornamented with carved mouldings and medallions. The ceiling is panelled with heavy ribs, diverging from the central dome, which is also panelled and ornamented with rich cornices.

The ceiling over the proscenium is formed of a single large panel, on which is frescoed an Aurora, copied from the original fresco of Guido Reni in Rome. On the right and left of it are two other panels, frescoed—the one with an ideal representation of Comedy, the other with an idealization of Tragedy. The three frescoes were executed by Schubert. The ribs and panel intersections are wrought with ornamental pendants flowing from the ceiling.

The auditorium is lighted wite Fink's patent reflectors, which are located in carved panels encircling the base of the central dome, containing altogether three hundred and fifty gas jets. They are lighted from above, and the illumination is deflected upon the audience below. This system of lighting is far superior to that of any opera house in the country, since it throws a brilliant yet subdued and mellow radiance upon and throughout the auditorium, with the exception of the galleries, which are illuminated by brackets projecting from the walls. The usual objection preferred against the illumination of large halls is obviated.

The plan of ventilation is very extensive and perfect in details. In addition to the windows, there is a large ventilatory shaft upreared from the ground floor and lifting itself like a vast turret far above the roof. This flue is constructed in connection with the steam and smoke flues. Then there is a large air duct that surmounts the parquet and leads directly to the main shaft, thus forming a lower draft, to be opened at all times. There are other ducts over the gallery circles, and in the dome a skylight twelve feet in diameter.

The heating is effected by means of Gould's automatic steam apparatus. In case of alarm from fire there is also a complete apparatus on the stage, fitted with hose and other appliances, by which jets of water may be immediately directed to any part of the building. In addition to the usual mode of egress there are means of exit from the upper tier to the roofs of adjoining buildings. In fact, nothing has been overlooked which can tend to the safety or comfort of the audience.

The fresco painting is admirable. Besides the Aurora there are sunken panels in the ceiling containing portraits of Beethoven, Mozart, Auber, Verdi, Weber, Wagner, Gounod, Gluck, Bellini, Donizetti, Meyerbeer and Rossini. The decorations of the proscenium and its boxes and of the grand entrances are rich in stucco, gilding, carving and statues.

The scenic department is composed of a large stock of entirely new scenes, painted by Arrigoni, Calyo and Voegtlin. Besides these there are many set pieces, painted to complete the scenery for the extensive *repertoire* of operas to be brought out during the present season.

The upholstery, designed and executed by Mr. E. H. Akass, is of the best kind, and the decorations are exceedingly costly. The seats, which are two thousand five hundred in number, are covered with blue damask of elaborate pattern, manufactured in Europe expressly for this palace of music and imported by A. T. Stewart, of New York. The draperies of the proscenium boxes, which are comprised in three tiers on each side of the stage, are of brocatel velvet, the trimmings and fringes of original design, the lower tier being festooned with gold brocatel, intermixed with crimson silk velvet lambskin. The second tier is draped with gold velvet, with trimmings to correspond, and the third tier is hung with gold brocatel, variegated with blue velvet. The three tiers together are all gorgeously decorated with the latest style of Honiton lace curtains, imported expressly for the purpose, the whole showing a harmony of design and combination of taste unsurpassed by any opera house in the United States or in Europe.

The stage and machinery have been planned under the direction of Mr. Wallace Hume, the successful constructor of many stages in this country. Mr. Hume has spared no pains to make this stage the most elegant and perfect in America. The dressing rooms are partly on and partly under the stage. These are seventeen in number, furnished with carpets, wardrobes, drawers, marble washstands and all other conveniences. Each of these rooms is ventilated and heated by the same means as the auditorium.

The National Thanksgiving.

THE DAY IN MASSACHUSETTS.

BOSTON, Nov. 9, 1865.

Thanksgiving Day in Massachusetts is appointed for Thursday, December 7, the change being made by Governor Andrew in accordance with President Johnson's proclamation for a National Thanksgiving on that day.

THANKSGIVING EMBARRASSMENTS IN RHODE ISLAND.

[From the Providence Journal, Nov. 8.]

At a meeting of the clergymen of the city, yesterday morning, it was decided to ask Governor Smith to change the day appointed to that designated by the President of the United States. It was agreed that but one service should be held in the churches, and unless the desired change is made, one or the other of the proclamations will be practically ignored. The present arrangement leaves the clergy in an unpleasant position, as they must seem to show disrespect to either the Chief Magistrate of the State or of the nation.

News from the Pacific.

THE PACIFIC RAILROAD—ROBBERY OF THE OVERLAND STAGE NEAR VIRGINIA CITY—INDIAN OUTRAGES, ETC.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 9, 1865.

Governor Low and the other Commissioners appointed by government to examine the recently completed portion of the Pacific Railroad, extending from Newcastle to Colfax, a distance of twenty-three miles, approved of the same, and forwarded their report to Washington. When the report is endorsed by the President the company will be entitled to eleven hundred thousand dollars in government bonds, or forty-eight thousand dollars per mile. The company announce that the bulk of the work to Dutch Flat, nearly eighty miles from Sacramento, will be completed in December.

The overland stage was attacked by six robbers, armed with double-barrelled guns, near Virginia City, on Monday night, who took all the valuables of the express and passengers, amounting to three thousand dollars. Among the passengers was J. L. Batcheldoor, of Boston, who was robbed of thirteen hundred dollars. No one was injured.

A despatch from Oregon states that late arrivals from Portland bring news of Indian outrages in the vicinity of Cottonwood creek. Some California cattle drovers were fired upon and three wounded. About forty head of horses and cattle were driven off.

News from New Orleans.

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 7, 1865.

General Fullerton has just issued two circulars, one reminding the freedmen that the time is approaching to make contracts for labor for another year, and the other directing all officers and agents collecting the school tax to report to him with their collections.

Colonel Wm. Christie, a veteran of the war of 1812, died in Texas lately. He was well known.

The planters have adopted a plan to get the freedmen to pick their cotton and it is meeting with success. When the day's work is done the cotton picked by each freedman is measured and he is paid according to the amount of cotton he has picked.

The cotton fields of Texas continue unpicked, the freedmen refusing to work.

Arrived steamer George Washington from New York.

Governor Humphreys, of Mississippi, calls upon the people of that State to organize companies to aid the civil authorities in maintaining law and order, and cautions them against oppressing the negroes in any way.

Trade between Texas and Mexico is increasing.

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 8, 1865.

Cotton extremely dull and irregular; sales of middling at 54c. Sugar 17½c. Molasses inactive. Gold 140½. Receipts of gold this week fully a million of dollars. Exchange firm. Checks on New York ¾ per cent discount.

News from Tennessee.

NASHVILLE, Nov. 9, 1865.

Eastern advices were unfavorable for transactions in cotton to-day, which closed dull and declining at 38c. a 42c. For a small lot 40c. was offered and declined. Cotton continues to arrive in large quantities. No large shipments or purchases have been made.

Captain J. O. Remington, Quartermaster at Chattanooga, was robbed of $25,000. His counting room was entered and the money taken out of the safe. Suspicion rests upon four persons who have been arrested.

Two attempts have been made to rob the safe of Capt. Hopkins at Chattanooga.

The river is at a stand, and twenty inches deep on the shoals.

Convention of Colored People.

POUGHKEEPSIE, Nov. 9, 1865.

The State Convention of colored men adjourned at a late hour on Wednesday night. The proceedings throughout were very harmonious and of an instructive nature. A State Central Committee was appointed to urge the franchise and other questions affecting the interests of colored Americans. Previous to the final adjournment of the Convention the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

Resolved, That this Convention is of the opinion that there should be a representation of colored men in the city of Washington from the different sections, to be there during the session of Congress, supported by the people, whose duty it should be to urge upon the members of Congress the importance of having the status of the colored American so fixed in the land that his color shall not be a bar to his occupying any position or to the enjoyment of all the rights that appertain to citizenship.

Quite a number of counties were represented, the delegates from which returned to their respective homes to-day.

The Brig Forrester Burned—Disaster to the Schooner Wm. McCobb.

BOSTON, Nov. 9, 1865.

The brig Forrester, of Bath, from Gardiner for Boston, was destroyed by fire off Cape Ann, on Tuesday. Crew saved.

The schooner Wm. McCobb, from New York, of and for Bucksport, with corn and flour, put into Provincetown on the 8th inst., leaking badly. She will have to remain.

THE CALIFORNIA CATASTROPHE.

Details of the Explosion of the Yosemite.

Forty of the Passengers Reported Killed and a Large Number More or Less Injured.

NAMES OF THE KILLED AND WOUNDED.

FEARFUL SCENES AT THE WRECK.

Speculations as to the Cause of the Disaster.

&c. &c. &c.

Our San Francisco Correspondence.

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 13, 1865.

The new and magnificent steamer Yosemite, of the California Steam Navigation Company, Sacramento and San Francisco line, was blown into a perfect wreck by the explosion of one of her boilers last evening on her downward trip to this city. She was lying at the wharf at Rio Vista at the time of the catastrophe. It is reported that forty of her passengers have been killed and many were wounded. It is supposed that the cause of the catastrophe was the neglect to let off steam while the boat was lying at the wharf.

The following is a copy of the despatch received by the Navigation Company:—

SACRAMENTO, Oct. 13—8 A. M.

CAPTAIN JAMES WHITNEY—The Yosemite burst her starboard boiler at Rio Vista wharf last evening. Her upper works forward are a complete wreck. The Chrysopolis brought up thirty wounded and five dead. Captain Poole and crew remain on her. Captain Poole, Enos Fourat, pilot, and Johnson, clerk, are almost unhurt. Paurbyte, engineer, and Creigh, freight clerk, are worse injured.

W. H. TAYLOE

ADDITIONAL DETAILS.

The following details I have gathered from private despatches to citizens of this place:—

Among the killed are Mr. Henry Regensburger, residence corner of Pine and Stockton streets, and Mr. Lindauer, of Lindauer & Hirschman. Mr. A. Fenkhausen, liquor dealer, is reported badly scalded. Wells, Fargo & Co.'s letter messenger, Colden Cooper, *was blown across the river, but was not injured*. He immediately swam back to render all the assistance in his power. Wells, Fargo & Co.'s regular messenger, William Ahearn, also escaped.

THE TREASURE,

which consisted of silver bars and gold to the weight of about a ton, is safe. The stanchions were blown off, and the whole mass was capsized into the hold.

The Chrysopolis took up the wounded and dead to Sacramento, where the former were placed under the care of the Howard Benevolent Society. The citizens are also aiding in the care of the wounded, many of whom were taken to the old Court House, corner of J and Fourth streets.

Mr. George Seaton, Senator