NEW YORK HERALD.

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway.—Sam.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 585 Broadway, opposite Metropolitan Hotel.—Ethiopian Singing, Dancing, &c.—The Candidates for the Mayoralty.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 201 Bowery.—Singing, Dancing, Burlesques, &c.—Marietta Zanfretta on the Tight Rope—Mons. Frizioni. Matinee at 2½ o'Clock.

TEMPLE OF MUSIC, corner of Grand and Crosby streets.—Thorpe & Ovehir's Minstrels of All Nations—Uncle Sam's Academy.

NEW NATIONAL CIRCUS, 37 and 39 Bowery.—Equestrian, Gymnastic and Acrobatic Feats, &c.—Them Mules. Matinee at 2½ o'Clock.

HOPE CHAPEL, 720 Broadway.—Professor Wiseman's Evenings of Mystery and Visions. Matinee at 2 o'Clock.

HOOLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—Ethiopian Minstrelsy—Ballads, Burlesques and Pantomines.

BROADWAY ATHENÆUM, Broadway.—Nicola Meister's Magnificent Scenic Illusions. Matinee at 2 o'Clock.

DODWORTH HALL, 806 Broadway.—Complimentary Concert to Mrs. E. A. Payne.

REV. DR. CHAPIN'S LECTURE ON "THE AGE OF IRON."—Laight street Baptist Church, corner of Laight and Varick.

REV. DR. WILLIT'S LECTURE ON "SUNSHINE, OR THE SECRET OF HAPPINESS."—Lee avenue Reformed Dutch Church, Brooklyn.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 618 Broadway.—Open from 10 A. M. till 10 P. M.

New York, Wednesday, November 29, 1865.

THE NEWS.

EUROPE.

By the arrival yesterday of the steamships Allemania at this port and the Nova Scotian at Portland, Me., we have news from Europe to the 18th of November—five days later.

The London press appears to indicate that the respective claims of the governments of the United States and England will be amicably settled. It was thought that our government was anxious to ascertain the feeling of England with respect to American finance.

France and the United States are advised by parties in England to unite in order to stop the arrogant policy and aggressive action of Spain in South America.

Stephens, the Fenian Head Centre in Ireland, was under examination before the magistrates. It is said that another Head Centre had been appointed in his stead by an officer delegated for that purpose from New York, who fulfilled his commission and got off again to America.

The feeling prevailing on the London Stock Exchange relative to the political situation existing between the United States and England checked any tendency to an advance in American securities. Spanish securities experienced a heavy fall in consequence of the news of the Hispano-Chilean war difficulty. English consols closed at 89¾ for money on the 17th of November.

The Liverpool cotton market experienced a decline of one-half of a penny per pound in the transactions of the week. On the 17th of November quotations remained unchanged; but the market was firmer. Breadstuffs were slightly lower. Provisions were not so firm.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Secretary Seward, in a recent despatch to Provisional Governor Holden, of North Carolina, advises the latter of the earnest desire of President Johnson that the State Legislature shall promptly ratify the anti-slavery amendment to the national constitution. The Governor is also informed that his administration is fully appreciated, and that the President expects him to continue to exercise his functions in the same spirit that he has heretofore manifested.

Little delay, our Washington despatches state, is now anticipated in the organization of the House of Representatives, the prospect being that Mr. Colfax will be elected Speaker with scarcely any opposition on the day of assembling, Monday next. None of the members from the lately rebellious States, excepting, perhaps, Tennessee and Arkansas, will, it is believed, be allowed to participate in the organization.

The Secretary of War has ordered the immediate release of all members of the volunteer service now suffering imprisonment for the crime of desertion.

An interesting account of General Grant's first visit to Richmond since its capture by the national forces is given by one of our correspondents in that city. The General arrived there from Washington, as stated in yesterday's Herald, on Monday afternoon, and was welcomed by the military authorities in a hearty and appropriate manner. It is said that he expressed his opinions while there pretty freely in regard to Mexican matters, declaring that the Maximilian usurpation is a part of our rebellion, and, being such, is a nuisance that our government should abate. He further remarked, it is stated, that we have nothing to do with France in this Mexican business, unless Louis Napoleon chooses to take umbrage at our support of the Juarez government, and if he does, and desires to go to war with this country, now is the best time for us, before our army and navy shall have been completely reduced to the peace establishment. It was expected that General Grant would leave Richmond for Charleston last evening, and return to Washington in time to be there when Congress assembles.

South Carolina news of interest is contained in our despatches by the steamships Granada and Quaker City, which arrived here yesterday from Charleston. The assumption of command of the Department of South Carolina by General Sickles, as successor to General Gillmore, took the people by surprise and created considerable consternation among them, they being inclined to think it indicated the displeasure of the President at their shortcomings in the work of reconstruction, and a purpose on the part of the government to re-establish martial law and call another session of the State Convention. General Sickles has removed the department headquarters from Hilton Head to Charleston. Only meagre returns of the election for Congressmen on the 22d inst. had been received; but ex-Governor Aiken has been chosen in the Second district, which includes the city of Charleston. This is regarded as a defeat of the secessionists. There had been held in Charleston a Supreme Council of the Masonic fraternity, at which ex-rebel General Albert Pike, of Arkansas, presided, and at which a large amount of business of importance to the Order was transacted. The King and Crown Prince of Sweden, the King of Denmark and the Grand Duke of Russia were elected honorary members. There had also been in session there a convention of the colored people of the State, whose proceedings are said to have been marked by an unexpected display of ability and decorum. Their resolutions strongly disavowed any insurrectionary designs or feelings of enmity towards their former masters, and declared their only object to be the improvement and elevation of their race. Over twelve hundred negroes left Charleston in a body on the 23d instant to return to the employment of their former masters on the sea islands.

The steamship Wilmington, from Galveston on the 18th instant, arrived here yesterday. Further allusions made in her advices to professed apprehensions of the white people of Texas of an insurrection of the negroes of the State about Christmas, on account of their not having received the impression till recently prevalent among the freedmen of other Southern States, that Christmas the government intends to distribute among them the lands of their former masters. It is said that in dread of the outbreak many families have already left the interior for the seacoast. The total debt of the state of Texas is estimated at over eight and a half millions of dollars.

A military order has been issued in Wilmington, North Carolina, removing all the colored troops to the forts.

The funeral of Jose Garcia Otero, the victim of that Brooklyn tragedy, took place yesterday. Services were held in the Church of Our Lady of Mercy, in Detoise street, and the body was placed in a vault in the cemetery of the Holy Cross, Flatbush, L. I. An immense crowd of people attended the funeral, and a detachment of one hundred police, under Captain Waddy, escorted the hearse from the dead house to the church and thence to the outskirts of the city. The coroner's investigation in regard to the murder took place yesterday. The prisoners Pellicer and Gonzales have been indicted for murder in the first degree by the Grand Jury. Kings county, and it is expected that they will be arraigned in the Court of Oyer and Terminer, in Brooklyn, to-day, and that their trial will take place at an early period.

Florida to-day elects her State officers, consisting of a Governor, Judges of Supreme and Circuit Courts, members of Legislature, &c., together with a Representative to Congress. The Legislature is to meet on the 18th of December.

The trial of the Strong divorce suit was continued yesterday, in the Superior Court, before Judge Garvin. After the close of the cross-examination of Miss Mumchl, Mrs. Hutchins, nurse in the Strong family, was placed on the stand. She testified to having seen Mrs. Strong on one occasion slowly open the door of Edward's room, and, after peering about, come out and run up stairs, and this while attired in her wrapper. The deposition of Mrs. Bedell, a sister of the plaintiff, was next read. The document was the occasion of considerable dispute between the opposing counsel. It deposed to the alleged confession of the adultery by Mrs. Strong, in a conversation with her sister-in-law, with the circumstances attending the first temptation. The reading of the deposition will be continued to-day.

A suit for ten thousand dollars damages against the Second Avenue Railroad Company was yesterday instituted in the Supreme Court, before Judge Smith, by a man named John Scaffun, who alleges that he was run over by one of their cars in the Bowery about a year ago, and so severely injured that he has since been deprived of the use of his legs. The case is not yet concluded.

In the suit in the Supreme Court of Mrs. Ann Curran against the Warren Naphtha Manufacturing Company of Williamsburg, for damages by the death of her son while in the employ of the proprietors of said establishment, through alleged carelessness on their part, the jury have returned a verdict for fifteen hundred dollars in favor of the plaintiff.

The case of George Davis against Sheriff Kelly and Deputy Sheriffs Hugh O'Donnell and Henry Drehr, for alleged false imprisonment in Eldridge street jail and extortion, damages being laid at ten thousand dollars, was concluded yesterday in the Superior Court, before Judge Moncrief. The Court dismissed the complaint against Mr. Kelly, and left the assessment of the amount of damages against his deputies to the jury, who returned a verdict in favor of the plaintiff for one hundred dollars.

In the Court of General Sessions yesterday Charles Allen was convicted of grand larceny, in stealing a piece of lace worth one hundred dollars from the store of Claflin & Co. on the 11th instant. He was sent to the State Prison for two years. A colored man named John Tillman was then placed at the bar and tried on an indictment for rape, committed upon a beautiful child aged only five years, the daughter of highly respectable parents residing up town. The victim of this atrocious and fiendish act was brought into court in the arms of her mother, and told the circumstances under which the offence was perpetrated. Her statement was fully substantiated by medical and other testimony, which disclosed additional revolting facts. The crime was committed a few days since, and as soon as Justice Dowling finished the examination the Grand Jury brought in an indictment. A few moments after the prisoner was arraigned by Assistant District Attorney Bedford and promptly convicted. Judge Russel, in passing sentence, said he regretted that the law was so changed as to prevent him from sentencing the prisoner for life. The highest penalty, however, was imposed, which was twenty years imprisonment in the State Prison. When the officers removed the negro from the court he was struck a severe blow by an indignant citizen; but Justice Dowling, who was passing, prevented any further violence.

The alleged Custom House frauds came up yesterday afternoon before Justice Dowling in the Tombs Police Court, for the purpose of argument on the jurisdiction of this court in the matter. The prisoners, William Chase Barney, Benthan Fabian and Captain Reginald Chauncy, were attended by their respective counsel. All the afternoon was taken up by the argument, it being maintained on the one side that in an offence committed on ceded territory (as are the Custom House and other public buildings) the New York State courts have no jurisdiction, and that therefore the case must be tried before a United States court. Several authorities were quoted to substantiate this, and the Justice said that he would have the question settled in a few days, and that in the meantime the testimony of witnesses would be proceeded with. The matter was adjourned over until to-morrow at ten o'clock.

A fire was discovered between two and three o'clock yesterday morning in the carpenter shop in the rear of Nos. 159 and 161 Mercer street. The flames spread rapidly, destroying a tenement house in the rear, and doing damage to the neighboring property. The fire is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary. The loss is estimated at thirty thousand dollars.

Another meeting of the Health Commissioners, to take action in reference to the cholera, was held yesterday. A communication from Dr. Marsden, of Quebec, embracing a plan for quarantining in cases of the disease, was presented and read. Dr. Sayre, city Resident Physician, then addressed the Board in defence of the recent action of the health authorities in quarantining vessels from infected European ports, and in reply to the animadversions of many on their conduct. He also gave an exposition of the nature, cause and symptoms of cholera, and suggested what he regarded as the proper means for preventing its ravages. He insisted especially on rigid quarantine.

The departure of the Brazilian Mail Steamship Company's steamer South America will be delayed until to-morrow (30th), to enable our merchants to acknowledge receipt of advices by the Havana, of the same line, due to-day from Rio Janeiro and St. Thomas.

The new Empire sidewheel line of steamships between New York and Savannah will hereafter sail from pier No. 29 North river, foot of Warren street, instead of from pier No. 43. The San Salvador will leave the above pier on Saturday next, December 2, at three P. M.

Particulars of the loss on the Florida coast, near Cape Canaveral, on the 22d ult., during the severe October gales, of the schooners Harriet B. Tyler and Joel G. Sweet are furnished by one of our Charleston correspondents. The former was on her way from Galveston for New York, and the latter from New York for Apalachicola. All the persons belonging to both vessels were saved excepting Captain James McGee, of the Tyler, who was drowned.

Sidewheel steamers are now running between Charleston, South Carolina; Savannah, Georgia; Fernandina and St. Augustine, Florida, and intermediate points.

The dead and mutilated body of a young man named John Wescott was found yesterday morning lying on the tract of the New Jersey Railroad, at the Washington street crossing, in Jersey City. It is supposed that he had been struck and instantly killed by a passing train during the preceding night.

Thirty thousand square feet of space have been assigned for American exhibitors in the French Universal Industrial Exhibition which is to open at Paris in the spring of 1867. Those desiring to exhibit must send their applications for assignment to No. 3 Spruce street, in this city, before the 1st of January next; but they will have over a year after that in which to prepare their specimens.

There is trouble between the Milwaukee and La Crosse Railroad Company and the farmers along their line. The farmers have mortgaged their farms to the amount of a million of dollars, and the mortgages are now being foreclosed. On Monday night considerable of the track of the road was torn up and a bridge was destroyed, eighteen miles from Milwaukee, and it is said the farmers threaten to destroy the entire line unless the company make provision for the payment of the mortgages.

Resolutions having in view the increase of cotton culture in the South, and requesting the support of government in projected new labor organizations for that purpose, have been adopted by the Boston Board of Trade.

Pending the European steamer's news yesterday business was quiet in almost every department. Foreign goods were quiet, but firm, owing to the advance in gold, while domestic produce was irregular. Cotton was steady. Petroleum was quiet. On 'Change flour was in demand, without decided change in prices. Wheat was firmer. Corn was active and decidedly higher. Oats, &c., were without noticeable change. Pork was irregular and decidedly lower. Beef was unchanged in every respect. Lard was dull, nominal, and again a shade in buyer's favor. Butter and cheese were unchanged. Whiskey was dull and unsettled.

Beef cattle were more active and ½c. a ¾c. higher this week, owing to a large decline (more than 1,000 head) in the receipts. Prices varied from 11c. to 18c., the advance being mainly on the lower grades. Cows were steady. Veals were in demand and firm. Sheep and lambs were less plenty, more active and higher. Prices varied from $3 75 to $8 per head, and 7½c. to 8½c. per pound. Hogs were altogether lower and heavy, Western hogs selling at 11½c., and others down to 11c. The total receipts are 4,994 beeves, 127 cows, 937 veals, 18,409 sheeps and lambs, and about 2,0[illegible] hogs.

The New Congress in Reference to Our Foreign Relations—Mexico.

The Hon. Mr. Colfax, in his late lecture at Philadelphia on Brigham Young and Mormon polygamy, in touching upon the approaching Congress truly said that it will be "the most important Congress ever assembled at Washington." It will mark a new epoch in our national history—a new epoch in our domestic and foreign affairs—and we hope the results may be eminently conducive to the harmonious restoration of the South and the prosperity and stability of the republic.

From the disturbed and threatening condition of things on the Rio Grande, from the strong indications that Louis Napoleon has been deluded by the past forbearance of our government, from the well known views of President Johnson, and from the universal public sentiment and expectations of the country, we look for early and decisive work from this new Congress upon the Mexican question. "One war at a time" was the inflexible and sagacious maxim of President Lincoln during those long years of our late dreadful domestic struggle, when England and France labored so zealously to entangle us in a supplemental war with themselves for the benefit of Jeff. Davis. Hence the late administration submitted to numerous affronts both from France and England, which, under other circumstances, would not have been given, or, if given, would have been reduced to a speedy settlement.

Most conspicuous among these insults stands Louis Napoleon's usurpation and attempted subjugation of the republic of Mexico under a prince of the imperial house of Austria. General Logan in a recent speech aptly described this Mexican usurpation as an outgrowth and fruit of the rebellion. Therein lies the offence for which there is no atonement but the removal of Maximilian, and that atonement must be made. There is no other question upon which there is such unanimity in the public opinion of this country as upon this. There is no anti-Monroe doctrine party in the United States, nor will there be any such party in the coming Congress. The Monroe resolution which passed the last House of Representatives without a dissenting voice, but which, for prudential reasons, was suffocated in the Senate, will, we guess, meet with different treatment in the Senate this winter. If Mr. Seward's late remarks at Auburn concerning Mexico mean anything they mean that the day of temporizing and apologizing has passed away, and that the day of settlement is at hand.

Accepting this interpretation, we anticipate from the President's message such representations and suggestions in relation to Mexico as will materially shorten the diplomatic labors of Mr. Seward in the way of protestations and explanations. Congress is the war making power. A positive notice to Maximilian to quit Mexico would necessarily involve the alternative of war. This notice, therefore, has doubtless been withheld by the Executive for the consideration of Congress.

What, then, is the prospect? Unless the government shall have received assurances from Louis Napoleon of his intended relinquishment of Mexico within a short time, we expect a formal notice to this effect from Congress. It is possible that there may be a sort of understanding between the two governments involving the withdrawal of Maximilian and his imperial establishment in some way and at some reasonable time agreed upon; but such a supposition can hardly be reconciled with Maximilian's present savage course of warfare against the Mexican liberals. If he were possessed of instructions from Napoleon comprehending an early retirement he would hardly be shooting as outlaws the officers and soldiers of the liberal cause as fast as they are captured. No such barbarous extremities of war would be deemed necessary for his temporary security. His evident purpose is to establish himself and his dynasty in Mexico permanently, and it is difficult to imagine that he is acting in these outrages without the advice of his imperial master.

In any event we look for a satisfactory presentation from the President's message of this Mexican problem, and for a satisfactory settlement from this Congress, without involving any very tedious or protracted negotiations and without war. We expect, in a word, an early re-establishment of the republic in the city of Mexico, and that the old General Santa Anna, sent away by the French, will return with Juarez, the fast and abiding friend of the United States, never to be exiled again.

Telegraphic Blunders.—Through the incompetency of the telegraphic operators, either here or in Philadelphia, or by the carelessness of the Associated Press reporter in the latter city, we have recently been to considerable unnecessary annoyance and expense. About three o'clock last Thursday afternoon we received the following despatch:—

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 23, 1865.

Hon. Schuyler Colfax will deliver a lecture before the Press Club *this evening*, at the Academy of Music, and *not next Monday evening*, as heretofore stated. His subject is, "Across the Continent and the Duties of the Next Congress."

With our usual promptness we immediately sent a stenographic reporter to Philadelphia, with instructions to take full notes of the lecture, and send a synopsis by telegraph. When our reporter arrived in Philadelphia, instead of listening to the remarks of Mr. Colfax he found the members of the Press Club enjoying themselves in a quadrille, the telegraph having mistaken a ball for a lecture. On the same evening another despatch came, of which the following is a copy:—

PHILADELPHIA, Thursday, Nov. 23, 1865.

Schuyler Colfax will deliver a lecture before the Press Club, at the Academy of Music, next Monday evening. His subject will be, "Across the Continent and the *Duties of the Next Congress*."

Again our reporter was sent to Philadelphia, and was surprised to hear Mr. Colfax announce that "a mistake in a telegraphic despatch alluding to his lecture misled many to suppose that he was going to speak on the "Duties of the Coming Congress," while in fact he was only going to give an account of his overland trip to the Pacific. Such blunders are unpardonable, and the persons who perpetrate them should be made to give way to men upon whom more reliance can be placed.

Municipal Reform.—There is no other plan of municipal reform so complete, so comprehensive and so popular as that which was first broached by the Herald and which is likely to be adopted by the next Legislature. Abolish the present city government, with its multifarious, independent and conflicting departments, and all the evils of which our citizens so loudly complain will be at once annihilated. Then substitute for the present complicated machinery a plain, simple system like a metropolitan commission, and the reform is perfected. New York, Brooklyn, Williamsburg and the adjacent villages have identical interests and should have the same government. Together they will make a magnificent metropolis, with a population of nearly two millions. The Mayor of New York might be the President of this metropolitan commission, and the Mayor of Brooklyn the Vice President. With the President should rest all the executive power and accountability. The legislative power should be vested in ten commissioners, to be selected from the best men in the State. Provision might be made for the election of these commissioners after the expiration of the terms of those appointed to inaugurate the system. A bill to provide for this recreation of the city government could be drawn by any competent lawyer in an hour, and, if passed by the Legislature, it would end all our troubles, and give us a pure, honest, economical and dignified municipal administration. It is folly to talk of reforming our abuses by electing a reform Mayor. This is only a trick to help hungry office seekers to get their hands into the city treasury. The Mayor has no power to make reforms, though he be as honest as the sun. Our sole resort is an appeal to the Legislature for reconstruction.

Negro Suffrage in the South.

While in all charity we believe there is a class of philanthropists at the North who have a real compassion for the negro, we also believe the class of agitators of the Wendell Phillips stamp use the questions connected with them for the most selfish and unjustifiable objects. Like the cuttle fish they wish to raise a black cloud about their path and escape the pursuit of their antagonists by the ejection of their usual means of defence. We do not perceive any of this pretended philanthropy in their treatment of the colored race around them at home, no manifestation of regard or sympathy, no real assimilation with it in manners, habits and social intercourse, and no rectification of any legal inequalities to which by Northern legislation it is still subjected. At a distance they can feel for the blacks, they can claim all sorts of concessions for them from their Southern friends, but are not so ready to make any themselves. For agitation, for political advantages, for personal success, they proclaim the extremist doctrines, and do not care what becomes of the country if they can but distinguish themselves by a pseudo humanity. Let us see for a moment what the consequences of negro suffrage, if granted unconditionally, would be in a single State.

By the census of 1860 it appears that in the State of South Carolina there was a population of 291,388 whites and 402,406 slaves. Of course it is clear if universal suffrage was established in that State the slaves would be at once in a most decided majority. What would be the consequence? Plain enough. The political power of that State would pass directly into the hands of the blacks. What next? Most assuredly we should see a negro Legislature, Governor and other officers of State, a negro Congressional delegation and two colored United States Senators. Now, is the country prepared to witness such a result? Is it ready to welcome the immediate ascendency in one of the States of a race without any other claim than that of color, without education, experience or property, taking a full share of the control of the country or directing any part of its policy? Is it possible that the most rabid abolitionist would approve of such a state of things? What would become of the unfortunate white minority of South Carolina when at the mercy of such a class of rulers? What would be the feelings of the representatives of the rest of the States when called upon to affiliate, consult with and defer to such associates at Washington? Have we seen in St. Domingo or Jamaica that the mere possession of political power has raised the intellectual or moral or social condition of the vote-casting population of color there? Events for the last generation in that part of the world contradict the assertion if any one should be bold enough to make it.

We clearly are of the opinion that we are not called on in any way to cheapen American suffrage to this extent, or to place any portion of our Union in a danger like that referred to. It has already been carried to the verge of danger. If it be said that the men who have borne arms for the country are entitled to the immediate and highest prerogatives of citizenship, then we should at once proclaim to the thirty thousand Canadians, who it is claimed have been in our ranks, that they too should be welcomed at once to our ballot boxes, whether they conform to the naturalization laws or not. We do not believe this proposition would find many friends, even among the most radical. There is a limit to the reward of the most gallant services. The bravest soldier of foreign birth is compelled to seek other qualifications as an elector than that of bearing arms. And so of the negroes. While we would fully protect their lives, labor and property, and give them the entire security of the laws, we doubt if it would be advisable to trust them immediately with the framing of those laws.

We come to the conclusion, therefore, that this question should be left to the restored States and the future of those States. We do not care to see this country a political checkerboard, on which the moves of the blacks and the whites are to determine the game.

Helping the South.—Southern Aid societies are being organized in various directions throughout the North, and the idea in which these societies originate seems to meet with very general favor. They propose to extend a helping hand to the now prostrate South, and in all ways to assist it to resume its former prosperity. Much money has been collected for this purpose. One society, we see, has spent seventy-five thousand dollars, another expects to raise a hundred thousand dollars, and so on. There is one kind of charity that these societies must avoid—a charity that is a positive injury to those who receive it, as well as to the whole South. They must not give money to persons, whether white or black, who are able to labor. We hear through practical men from South Carolina that the Southern Aid societies have already done harm in that State in this way. The question of labor for the Southern States has always embarrassed the abolition of slavery. It was from the first foreseen that when the slave became free he would only labor to keep himself alive. It is now found, in fact, that this want of labor is quite as great an evil as it was ever feared it would be. Many of the poor whites, as well as many of the lately freed slaves, will not labor if they can live without it; and we find that, to add to the trouble, they are in some cases enabled to live without labor through the money collected from charitable persons here. Money so spent does not answer the purpose of charity, but is a positive injury to the section it is intended to benefit. The South is crying out in the loudest voice, not for money, but for the very labor that money keeps idle. The best Southern Aid societies—the only ones that deserve the name—are those that spend their money in agricultural implements, seeds, &c., and send these to the Southern farmers. But if it is too much trouble to do this, if societies must send money, let them send it as loans to the planters and farmers, and take mortgages on the crops. The poor will then get the money as wages, and the South will get their labor, while no one will be demoralized by premiums on idleness.

The Westward March of Civilization—The New Centres of Opera.

Emerging from our long and expensive war, we have fallen suddenly into an era of prosperity, refinement, fashion and extravagant expenditure. A change so rapid is without parallel in the history of any other nation. The South is returning to its former condition in the Union more healthfully than could have been imagined. Railroads and steamboat lines are again restoring communication between the Northern and Southern States. In the great West the refinements of metropolitan civilization are transferred to the centres of operatic enterprise in Chicago, St. Louis and Cincinnati, leaving New York entirely in the background so far as the divine art is concerned. Grau, with his splendid triple company of fresh young artists, has taken the palm in Chicago. St. Louis, Cincinnati and Havana are yet before him, to each of which he goes in succession, after playing another season in Chicago in January, when Meyerbeer's grand work, *L'Africaine*, will be produced there with great splendor. It is probable that this opera will be given in New York before it is produced in the West, but in an imperfect manner; for there are neither the voices nor the material to bring it out here in first class style. Such an opera, put upon the stage hurriedly and imperfectly, cannot be expected to come up to the expectations of a critical public, when we remember that it took eleven months to rehearse it at the Grand Opera in Paris, with all the facilities at the command of the director, and that nearly four months were devoted to its preparation at Covent Garden theatre, London. The Chicago people will therefore have the advantage of us in hearing *L'Africaine* sung by good artists, of established reputation, instead of second rate ones, many of whom were never heard of before, and represented with scenery and costumes of the most perfect and expensive kind.

Manager Grau has shown himself to be the prince of impressarios in the sagacity and enterprise which he has developed in the engagement of his Chicago company. He has secured a troupe larger than any opera house in Europe can boast of, and in point of talent vastly superior to any artists we have had in this country for many years. Gazzaniga leads the list, an artist without a rival; Noel Guidi, the tragic prima donna, in the very bloom of youth, beautiful and silver-voiced, who has won her reputation in all the leading theatres of Europe, from Rome to St. Petersburg; and Boschetti, whom the Italians delight to call the "Queen of Marguerites"—and a peerless Marguerite she is—and who is equally good in Traviata, Martha and the Page in Ballo Maschera as she is in Marguerite, which she studied under the direction of Gounod himself; and Anastasi, with a voice like Salvi in its purest and freshest condition, who has been pronounced the best tenor that has delighted the ears of the American public for many a day. With such artists Chicago is favored, and how pitiable the contrast between the opera as given there and as we have it here! Verily the West is looming up in the art world, while in the metropolis opera is falling into decrepitude.

Theatrical Intelligence.

Mr. John E. Owens received a glowing welcome at the Front street theatre, Baltimore, on Monday night, on the occasion of his first professional appearance since his return from Europe. The theatre was densely crowded in every part, notwithstanding that the prices had been increased fifty per cent over the ordinary tariff of admission, and throngs were turned away. The applause was very demonstrative, the performance being once or twice interrupted by the enthusiasm of the audience. Miss Maggie Mitchell, who appeared at Holliday street theatre the same night, was also received with equal fervor and favor by an overwhelming audience. Mr. Owens' engagement in Baltimore is but for two weeks; after its termination he will remain idle until his eagerly anticipated appearance at the Broadway theatre, in this city, on Monday, January 8.

Barney and Mrs. Williams had a farewell night at the new Arch street theatre, Philadelphia, November 25. The Connie Soogah, Yankee Courtship and Pat's Blunders kept a very crowded house in a high state of delight during the evening. Madame Celeste appeared at the house November 27. Barney Williams and his lady passed through New York yesterday, *en route* to Boston, to fill an engagement at the Howard Athenæum.

The Workmen of Philadelphia, or the Curse of Drink, has been given at a grand matinee in the new Chestnut street theatre, Philadelphia, before a crowded audience. Miss Lucille Western has been introduced at the same house, in the play of Atonement, or the Child Stealer. She plays Madge the Cadger and Margaret Rookly. Miss Josie Orten also appears in it.

A good many dramatic novelties are in preparation for the boards of the Boston theatres. The performances announced for the present week in that city are very attractive. Work upon Lon Morris' new theatre (the Continental) is pressed forward with vigor; the walls are up and the roof being put on; the front will present an imposing appearance. At the French theatre they have *Le Coucher d'une Etoile*, *Les Femmes qui Pleurent* and *Bonhomme*. The Serf, Cinderella, minstrel performances and the ballet amuse large audiences at the other houses. The new enterprise of a Theatre Comique in Boston has proved a most successful experiment. The journals of the modern Athens censure in the strongest terms the very bad habit of rushing out from the auditorium the moment the actors "line" themselves for the epilogue, as annoying to a very large portion of the audience. At some of the Western theatres, when this movement to the rear commences (as though the building was on fire), the actors have adopted a plan that has partially eradicated the nuisance. They stop immediately, and do not proceed with the piece until the noise and confusion subsides.

Miss Kate Reignolds has played Rosalind, in As You Like It, at the Buffalo (N. Y.) theatre, singing the Cuckoo Song.

Ben. Maginly made his last appearance for the season at the National theatre, Cincinnati, November 25. He played Larry O'Gag and Jim Baggs.

Miss Laura Keene is playing an engagement at the new Memphis theatre, Memphis, Tenn. She personated Miss Hardcastle in She Stoops to Conquer.

Gardner, Hemmings & Co.'s circus is exceedingly attractive in Philadelphia.

Magic and Vision.—Professor Wiseman attracts crowds to Hope Chapel by his wonderful performances in "magic," while Madame Wiseman sends them away astonished by her "supernatural vision."

The Opera in the West.

A STORMY NIGHT, BUT A CROWDED HOUSE AND AN ENTHUSIASTIC AUDIENCE—PRESENTATION OF NORMA—MARKED SUCCESS OF SIGNORA GUIDI AS THE HEROINE—ALL THE OTHER PARTS FINELY CAST AND EXQUISITELY PERFORMED, ETC.

CHICAGO, Nov. 29—12:45 A. M.

To-night we had the first real bad weather since the arrival of Grau's opera troupe at Chicago. It was snowing and storming; nevertheless, the house was well filled with an appreciative and enthusiastic audience to listen to *Norma*. Signora Guidi, whose Norma creates a sensation wherever she performs it, gave great satisfaction to those who were here to-night. The cast was excellent, and was as follows:—Noel Guidi as Norma, Cash Pollini as Adalgisa, Musiani as Pollio, and Milleri as Oroveso. Signora Guidi enacted Norma with a purity of style and with a fire and elegance that can be but seldom surpassed. Her voice, which is the most flute-like human production of sound, rang through the house with a most penetrating and at the same time sweet sonorousness. The high C just preceding the *casta diva* was alone worth the trouble of going far to hear, to say nothing of the beautiful rendition of that favorite and well known aria. Both received most rapturous applause. In the duets and in the last grand tragic scene she displayed vocal and dramatic powers that brought the house down. Her appearance was most interesting, and her tastily got up dress was in full correspondence with her fine form and face, presenting a most poetical picture of the priestess. She was called out at the close of each act.

Signora Cash Pollini, who, with her full and rich contralto voice, has never before attempted the music of Adalgisa, sang its high notes with perfect ease, and did her whole part admirably. The duo, *Mira Ol Norma*, between her and Noel Guidi was a grand success and had to be repeated. Pollio was sung by Musiani with the same success that marked his singing of Faon last night. He was in excellent voice, and we have not heard Pollio sung better these many years. Signor Milleri's conception of Oroveso is an entirely novel one, and, we may add, a most truthful and attractive one. Signor Milleri is one of the finest bassos that has ever visited this country.

Both orchestra and choruses were good, especially the grand closing chorus, which was sublimely sung. Signor Muzio conducted with his usual vigor.

To-morrow night the enterprising Mr. Crosby will open a new music hall, situated in close proximity to his magnificent opera house. It is, in fact, an addition to the latter, intended for chamber concerts. Boschetti, Olgini, Anastasi, Fellini and Milleri—all of the Grau Opera troupe—are to sing on the occasion of the inauguration.

On Thursday *Saffo* will be repeated, in which Gazzaniga achieved such a success; and on Friday night *Roberto Il Diavalo* will close the season.

A telegraphic despatch from St. Louis received to-day by the Chicago press, announces that Grau's receipts yesterday—the first day's subscription for a season of eighteen nights of opera—amounted to over eleven thousand dollars.

Fire in Mercer Street.

A WOODYARD FIRED BY AN INCENDIARY—A TENEMENT HOUSE BURNED—DAMAGE ESTIMATED AT THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS.

A destructive fire broke out between two and three o'clock yesterday morning in the carpenter's shop of Messrs. Tribet & Hardley, in the rear of Nos. 159 and 161 Mercer street, and spread very rapidly, destroying an immense amount of property.

The carpenter's shop, in which the fire broke out, is situated in the rear of the building, and was stored with wood, the rooms being nearly full. The front buildings were occupied, on the first floor, by Messrs. Tribet & Hardley as offices and store rooms. The second floor was occupied by Messrs. Ashe & Co., painters and scenic artists, and Messrs. Potter & Stymers, cabinet manufacturers, occupied the third and fourth stories. The fire was first discovered by the proprietor of a neighboring saloon, whose windows overlook the rear of the building. He immediately gave the alarm, and the engines were quickly on the spot; but from the inflammable nature of the materials the fire spread rapidly, and in an hour from its commencement had consumed the whole of the building. To attempt to save the building was futile, and the firemen directed their efforts to the roofs of the neighboring houses, and so checked the further progress of the fire. Despite their efforts the roof of a neighboring house was damaged, and a tenement house in the rear, occupied by colored families, was completely gutted. A small frame tenement house adjoining No. 161, occupied by colored families, was also damaged by the falling walls. The heat of the flames at one time was so intense that a person standing in an office across the street could not approach the window within several feet. Large flakes of fire were carried by the wind as far as Broadway and Canal street, and a number of awnings were burned by them. It was known that two horses were kept in the rear building, and fears were entertained for their safety. As soon as the fire was got under a search was made for them by digging away the rubbish; but while doing so a fireman said he had seen a person lead the animals away, and the search was discontinued. Nothing has been heard of the missing animals since, although the stables in the neighborhood have been thoroughly searched, and it is thought that some person, taking advantage of the confusion, made off with them.

The rear of the Jewish synagogue, "Darieh Anumo," No. 164 Greene street, and owned by M. and S. Sternberger, is damaged to the extent of three hundred dollars.

The buildings 159 and 161 Mercer street were owned by Tribet & Hardley. Their loss on buildings, stock and machinery amounted to $7,000. They were insured for $1,500 in the Howard, $1,500 in the Pacific and $1,000 in the Hamilton Insurance Company.

Messrs. Ashe & Co.'s loss is estimated at about $5,000. Insured for $500 in the Hamilton and $500 in the Globe Insurance companies.

Messrs. Potter & Stymers' loss is estimated at $10,000. Insured for $4,000 in the Enterprise Company, of Philadelphia, and the Narragansett Insurance Company.

Dwelling house 157 Mercer street, occupied by George Mulder; the furniture was damaged to the extent of about $1,000, and is insured in the Germania Insurance Company for $4,000. The building was owned by Henry Maillard, and is damaged to the amount of $1,000, and is insured in the People's Insurance Company.

A brick tenement house in the rear, occupied by colored families, is damaged to the amount of about $1,500.

A small frame tenement house adjoining 161 Mercer street, occupied by colored families, was damaged by the falling walls. The loss is estimated at $500.

The whole loss, as near as can be ascertained, will reach $30,000.

The fire is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary, as officer Bride, of the Eighth precinct, says that he found the gate leading to the carpenter's shop open on Monday night, and again early on Tuesday morning. He closed it both times. On discovering the fire he found the gate open a third time. Fire Marshal Baker is making an examination into the cause of the fire.

Jersey City News.

Fatal Accident on the Railroad.—Coroner Kirsten, of Jersey City, commenced an inquest yesterday afternoon on the body of a young man named John Wescott, whose mutilated remains were found lying on the New Jersey Railroad track, at the Washington street crossing. The remains presented a horrible sight, the clothing being nearly all stripped off, the entrails protruding, one foot severed, the other crushed, and the head and body badly mutilated and lacerated. It appears that deceased had been to visit his brother, in Bergen, and, it is supposed, was crossing the track on his way home in Washington when struck and killed by the Newark train due at half-past eleven P. M. in Jersey City. The jury viewed the ground, and, after taking the evidence of officer Harney as to finding the body, adjourned over until this morning.

Brooklyn City News.

The Gale on Monday Night.—The gale on Monday night was felt very severely in Brooklyn and suburbs, and caused considerable damage to signs, awnings and window shutters. On the suburbs of the city, where new buildings are being erected, many of them suffered severe damage. The walls of the unfinished Methodist Episcopal Church of the Tabernacle, on Union avenue, at the head of Noble street, Greenpoint, were blown down, inflicting a loss of $3,000. The building had been erected to the height of fifty feet, and only some five or six feet were left standing.

Course of Lectures at the Lee Avenue Church.—The first of the course of lectures which is to be given at the Lee avenue church during the winter will be delivered this evening by the Rev. A. A. Willits, D. D. Subject—"Sunshine."

Seizure of Tobacco in Louisville.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Nov. 28,