

NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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Volume XXX..... No. 349

AMUSEMENTS THIS AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

ROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway.—SAM. MATTHEW at 8 o'clock.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 58 Broadway, opposite Metropolitan Hotel.—MINSTRELS, DANES, & CO. at 8 o'clock.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 20 Broadway.—SCENIC, DANCING, BURLESQUE, &c.—THE FRENCH OPERA, OR, THE FINEST OF THE ARTS. Matinee at 2 1/2 o'clock.

GEORGE CHRISTY'S MINSTRELS.—THE OLD SONGS OF MINSTRELS, BALLOONS, MUSIC, &c.—at the 10th AVENUE OPERA HOUSE, Nos. 2 and 4 West Twenty-fourth St. Matinee at 2 o'clock.

NEW NATIONAL CIRCUS, 27 and 29 Broadway.—SPECTACULAR, OPERA AND ACCROBATIC FEATS, &c.—LITTLE AND LITTLE ON THE TRAPPE. Matinee at 2 o'clock.

BRANTON'S MINSTRELS, Mechanics' Hall, 472 Broadway.—DAN BRANTON'S NEW STYLED NEGRO COMICALS, BURLESQUE, &c.—JERRY THE FORT.

HOPE CHAPEL, 729 Broadway.—PROFESSOR WHEATMAN'S FEATS OF STRENGTH AND VIGOR. Matinee at 2 o'clock.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Irving place.—SECOND CONCERT OF THE PALERMO SOCIETY OF NEW YORK.

IRVING HALL, Irving place.—MR. ALFRED H. FRANK'S ORCHESTRAL CONCERT.

COOPER INSTITUTE, Astor Place.—DAVENPORT BROTHERS KAPOOR at 8 P. M.

ROOLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—EUROPEAN MINSTRELS.—BALLOONS, BURLESQUE AND FANTASIES.

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

WITH SUPPLEMENT.

New York, Saturday, December 16, 1865.

NEWSPAPER CIRCULATION.

Receipts of Sales of the New York Daily Newspapers.

OFFICIAL.

Year Ending May 1, 1865.

HERALD..... \$1,095,000

Tribune..... 368,150

Times..... 252,000

Evening Post..... 169,427

World..... 100,000

Sun..... 101,079

Express..... 90,548

New York Herald, World and Sun combined..... \$1,095,000

Times, Tribune, World and Sun combined..... 871,239

THE NEWS.

Washington dispatches state that the recent spirited manifestations of sympathy with the republican cause in Mexico displayed in Congress and by the people of all classes in this country, together with the appointment of General Logan, an outspoken advocate of the immediate enforcement of the Monroe Doctrine, to the government of President Juarez, have led to fresh correspondence on Mexican matters between Count Mouton, the French Minister, and Secretary Seward, and induced the former to dispatch his Chief Secretary, who sailed on Wednesday last, to Europe for definite instructions from Louis Napoleon. There is a rumor that M. Montebon has intimated that in case a Minister is accredited by our government to that of the Mexican republic the French Legation will be withdrawn from Washington. It is also reported that yesterday's Cabinet meeting, which was a longer one than usual, and which was also attended by General Grant, was devoted to the consideration of Mexican affairs.

The leading points of the decree of President Juarez, announcing his intention of continuing to exercise the functions of Executive of the Mexican republic, issued at El Paso on the 8th of November, and briefly noticed in last Saturday's Herald, are given in our present issue. He states that, though his term has expired, as there has been no opportunity, in consequence of the disordered condition of the country, to elect his successor, and as the Congress has invested him with extraordinary powers, he regards it as his duty to continue to act as President until such time as another election can be held.

In the United States Supreme Court in Washington yesterday argument was commenced in the case of the application of Mr. A. H. Garland, of Arkansas, a pardoned rebel, to be allowed to practice in said court without taking the oath prescribed by act of Congress. The question involved in the constitutionality of this oath, which requires every applicant for admission to the bar of a United States court to swear that he never voluntarily aided the rebellion. Mr. M. H. Carpenter, counsel for Mr. Garland, took the ground that the President's pardon restores his client to all his former rights, and that this bar to his entry into national courts as a practitioner is therefore unconstitutional. Attorney General Speed replied, maintaining the constitutionality of the oath. The argument was listened to with much interest by a large assemblage of legal gentlemen. It will be continued on Friday next.

Chief Justice Bowler, of the Supreme Court of Maryland, has recently decided a decision sustaining the Registry law of that State which excludes from voting all who cannot take the test oath prescribed in the new constitution.

The Kentucky Legislature has passed a bill pardoning all persons who during the rebellion committed treason against the Commonwealth and removing the legal disabilities imposed on rebels by previous legislation.

Governor Worth, of North Carolina, was inaugurated in Raleigh yesterday; but it is not likely that he will assume the exercise of executive functions for some time yet, as the President has heretofore instructed Provisional Governor Holden that he is to continue to hold the office until specially relieved by orders from Washington.

The official notification of the ratification by the Indiana Legislature of the anti-slavery amendment to the national constitution was yesterday filed in the State Department by Speaker Coffey.

Jeff. Davis, we are informed by our Fort Monroe correspondence, has recently been visited in his case-nation prison at that place by his old spiritual adviser, the pastor of St. Paul's church, Richmond, who passed an entire day with the rebel ex-President in religious treat-

ing, conversation and other exercises, and administered to him the sacrament.

As a matter of interest both as a reminiscence of the metropolis and as showing the inauguration by the Herald of newspaper enterprise in this country thirty years ago, we republish to-day, the anniversary of the great fire in this city on the 16th of December, 1835, the full reports of that disastrous conflagration which were given in our issues of the two following days. The story will be read with deep interest by both old and young New York, not only as a record of the past, but also as one of the early specimens of that energy and approach to the life of the metropolis of that day that revolutionized American journalism and placed the Herald in that advanced position of newspaper which it has always maintained. The reports are accompanied by the same engravings of the burned district that originally appeared with them.

In the Board of Aldermen yesterday a report from the Finance Committee was read in favor of leasing to the Sisters of Mercy for ninety-nine years, at a nominal rent, the plot of ground lying between Eighty-first and Eighty-second streets and Fourth and Madison avenues; but it was laid over. A motion was made to obtain the opinion of the Corporation Counsel on the subject of authorizing the issue of seventy-five thousand dollars worth of market stock because of a mandamus served upon the Board to that effect; but this was also laid over.

The Board of Councilmen met yesterday and disposed of a large number of unimportant papers. An ordinance was adopted appointing an Inspector of Canal Railroads, whose duty it will be to see that the various railroads are kept in a proper condition. His salary was fixed at three thousand dollars per annum.

The Commissioners of Charities and Correction met yesterday and received a paper from Mr. Bigelow, our Minister in France, enclosing the regulations of the Parisian Morgue. Another from the Comptroller, authorizing the Board to use 14 1/2 West Tenth street as an addition to Jefferson Market prison.

The Court of Appeals, in the case of the Board of Commissioners of Pilots versus John H. Clark and others, brought in the Supreme Court to recover penalties, imposed by a statute passed in 1858, for encumbering one of the piers belonging to the city of New York, has concluded in favor of the defendants. The court below, holding that the defendants are liable therefor.

The Court of Appeals decisions, heretofore alluded to, in the case of the city of Utica against the stockholders of the Second National Bank of that place and the Harlem Gaslight Company versus the city of New York, are given in our paper this morning. In the former case the court decided, as it has also done in other similar cases, that the individual stockholders of national banks are liable to taxation by municipal authorities on their shares in the stock of said institutions. The other case involved the question whether the Harlem Gas Light Company was justified, as it did in September, 1864, in increasing the charge for gas supplied to light the city over Seventy-eighth street and the level of the company.

A suit of E. J. Conant against Howland & Aspinwall for alleged loss sustained in a business transaction relative to a loan of money was yesterday before the Supreme Court, special term. Plaintiff borrowed the sum of six thousand five hundred dollars from defendants, and deposited as collateral security one hundred shares of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company's stock, valued at ten thousand dollars, giving the privilege of sale in case the money should not be paid at the proper time. It is claimed that the sale was made improperly, and that plaintiff lost by the operation. The case is still on.

The developments in the Strong divorce trial yesterday were of an interesting character. During the continued examination of Mrs. P. H. Strong an affidavit signed by her was put in evidence, revealing a brief but dreadful history of the Adams abortion case in the house in Waverley place, which had been so often hinted at in the earlier stages of the trial. Mary Smith, a soldier's wife, who had been an inmate of the house at the time of Mr. Strong's alleged adultery with Mrs. Potter, testified, toward the close of the day, to some startling facts, designed to substantiate that charge. The case has been adjourned until Monday next.

The trial of John Hackett for the murder of John Green was concluded yesterday in the Court of Oyer and Terminer. Several witnesses were called to testify as to the good character of the prisoner. The case was then given to the jury, but they had not agreed up to a late hour last evening.

An action was brought in the Court of Common Pleas, before Judge Cardozo, yesterday, by a man named Hartog, to recover two hundred and fifty dollars from the corporators of Gallagher's Evening Exchange. It was alleged that this money had been paid Gallagher on the 18th of August last, for a seat for one year in the Exchange, but that the action of the Board of Brokers prohibiting the sale of stocks in the building had closed up the institution in eight days after the money had been paid. After hearing evidence in the case, the jury gave a verdict for the plaintiff, allowing him two hundred and forty dollars.

The trial of John Ward, charged with the homicide of policeman Walker, was continued yesterday in the Court of General Sessions. Officer Robertson testified that the accused had a pistol in April, four months before the killing. The statement of the prisoner, taken by the Coroner, was offered in evidence by the District Attorney, but subsequently reserved. Edward Donohue, a comrade of Ward on the night of the occurrence, was examined by counsel for the defence, and testified that a party of young fellows attended a ball in a dilapidated house in Seventeenth street from which the accused was charged with escaping just as the policeman was shot. The witness saw no pistol with Ward, and did not see who fired it. In consequence of a death in the family of the counsel for the prisoner the case was postponed till Monday, when it will be concluded.

The proceedings of the naval court martial, of which Vice Admiral Farragut was president, in the case of Commodore Thomas F. Craven, have been made public. Commodore Craven was charged with neglect of duty, while in command of the steamer Sacramento, off Coruana, in not attacking the rebel ram Stonewall while the latter was making his way out of the harbor of said port. The court at first found the Commodore guilty in a less degree than charged, and sentenced him to be suspended from duty on leave pay for two years; but, the Secretary of the Navy pronouncing the results of the court's deliberations unwarranted by the circumstances of the case, the members again took the matter under consideration, and found the accused guilty, except in relation to that portion of the specification which declared it was his duty to have engaged the Stonewall. Their sentence in this instance was the same as in the first, and their proceedings were again disapproved by the Secretary, who thereupon sent them aside and relieved Commodore Craven from arrest.

In the case of Lieutenant Colonel Ward Marston, of the Marine corps, found guilty by a naval court martial of having failed to return to men under his command moneys deposited by them with him, and sentenced to be dishonorably dismissed, forever disqualified from holding position under government, and to forfeit his dues, President Johnson has so modified the sentence as to deduct the amount of the moneys from the punishment of the regiment by the Secretary of the Navy, and to deduct one-half his retired pay till the amount of his indebtedness to the marina is discharged. The Secretary says that the exact form of the record is the best reprimand that can be given in the case.

At last, though rather late in the season, we have been visited by weather of a decidedly wintry character. Yesterday the atmosphere was cold and crisp, and of a kind very appropriate to the month of December. If the same temperature continues many hours the impatient skaters, who were beginning to fear that they would have no opportunity to enjoy their favorite sport this winter, will have all the icy facilities they can desire.

Two of the previously absent Fenian Deserter have arrived in this city, but have not yet shown their hands. The Irish military delegation go decidedly with the non-O'Mahony men. The Fenian organization is reported as disintegrated and disorganized by the old system. An enthusiastic demonstration was held in Chicago in favor of the Senate and President Roberts. The Hitherford has issued an address. The city circles are still passing O'Mahony resolutions. The West is reported for the Senate. No session of the Senators took place yesterday. They will next meet with the two hitherto absent members added to their body. The canvass for the respective systems continues brisk.

The sixtieth annual meeting of the New England Society of this city was held last evening at Delmonico's, corner of Fourteenth street and Fifth avenue. The business of the meeting consisted of an election of officers for the ensuing year, the reading of reports from the treasurer and the various committees, the increasing of initiation and annual dues, and the reception of thirty new members.

There was another sale of government captured cotton

yesterday at 111 Broadway, over three thousand bales being disposed of. The attendance was large, and the bidding was animated; but there was a slight decline in the prices received from those of a month ago. Madding fair New Orleans and Memphis cotton sold for fifty-three cents per pound, and strictly middling at from fifty and a half cents to fifty-one and one-fourth cents.

The Steamship City of New York, Captain Leitch, of the Human line, will sail at noon for Queenstown and Liverpool on pier 44 North river. The mails will close at half past ten A. M. at the Post Office. The fine steamship Matanzas, Captain Liesegang, of the Atlantic and Mississippi steamship line, will sail at three P. M. to-day from pier 45 North river, just above Canal street, for New Orleans direct.

The Steamship San Salvador, Captain Atkins, of the Empire side-wheel line, will sail to-day for Savannah at three P. M. from pier No. 2 North river.

The steamer Galatia, which did good service for our government during the rebellion, and was afterwards sold to the government of the Haytian republic, sailed yesterday from this port, where she had been for some time undergoing the process of being fitted out as a Haytian man-of-war, for Port au Prince. She has an armament of one fifty-pounder and ten thirty-pounder Parrot guns, and is officered principally by white men who served in the Union fleet during the late war. Her crew is composed chiefly of colored seamen who also have completed their terms of service on board United States naval vessels.

The City Council of Washington, in consequence of the measures introduced in Congress to extend the voting privilege to the colored people of the District of Columbia, propose to hold an election on Thursday next to decide the feeling of the white voters in the matter.

There were large fires on Thursday in the towns of Newburg and Oswego, in this State. In the former a saw and blind factory, a car factory, a millwright shop and two dwellings were destroyed, involving losses aggregating nearly forty thousand dollars, all of which were covered by insurance. In Oswego the steam sawmill and shipyard of Chandler & Wignot were partially consumed, and the fire caught the shipping in the river, but did no great damage to it. Thirty thousand dollars is the estimate of damages.

William Willis, who was to have been hanged yesterday in Kingston, N. Y., for the murder of Mrs. Rockwell, has had his sentence commuted by Governor Fenton to imprisonment for life at Sing Sing.

The stock market was active and strong yesterday. Governments were a fraction higher. Gold closed at 146 1/2.

The advance of gold yesterday occasioned increased buoyancy and firmness in trade circles, and both foreign and domestic goods generally sold at an improvement. There was more speculative inquiry than for some time previously. Groceries were dull, but rather more steady. Cotton was less firm, with a fair demand. Petroleum was a shade easier. On Change flour was again higher. Wheat and corn were also in seller's favor, with a fair demand. Oats were somewhat firmer. Pork was irregular, closing lower. Beef was unchanged. Lard was steady. Whiskey ruled decidedly more active and higher, closing firm at the improvement.

Reconstruction—The Constitutional and the Radical, the Right and the Wrong Way.

The proceedings of the first two weeks of the present Congress have pretty broadly developed the reconstruction schemes and purposes of the leading Northern radicals.

The sweeping caucus resolution of Stevens, which has been substantially adopted as the rule of action of the two houses, indicates, so far as the radicals have the power, the exclusion of the late rebel States until they shall have complied with other conditions in addition to those laid down by the President for the guidance of the new Southern conventions and legislatures. What these other conditions are likely to be we may conjecture from the propositions introduced into the Senate by Messrs. Wilson and Sumner, the two authoritative radical leaders from Massachusetts.

First, we have the bill introduced by Senator Wilson, declaring null and void all laws heretofore in force or held valid in the late insurrectionary States, making any inequality of civil rights and immunities among the inhabitants of said States on account of race and color. Next, we have a resolution from Mr. Sumner, declaring in reference to the excluded Southern States, that "it is the full duty of Congress to take care that no State declared to be in rebellion shall be allowed to resume its relation to the Union until after the satisfactory performance of five several conditions, which conditions precedent must be submitted to a popular vote and be sanctioned by a majority of the people of each State respectively, as follows:—The complete re-establishment of loyalty as shown by an honest recognition of the unity of the republic and the duty of allegiance to it at all times, without mental reservation or equivocation of any kind; the complete suppression of all oligarchical pretensions and the complete enfranchisement of all citizens, so that there shall be no denial of rights on account of color or race, but justice shall be impartial, and all shall be equal before the law; the rejection of the rebel debt, and at the same time the adoption in just proportion of the national debt and the national obligations to Union soldiers, with solemn pledges never to join in any measure, direct or indirect, for their repudiation or in any way tending to impair the national credit; the organization of an educational system for the equal benefit of all, without distinction of color or race; the choice of citizens for office, whether State or national, of constant and undoubted loyalty, whose conduct and conversation shall give assurance of peace and reconciliation."

These propositions of Southern reconstruction, it will be seen, would reduce the States directly concerned to the Massachusetts standard of political equality, which goes far beyond the standard of loyalty required of the several States by the federal constitution. But, granting, to shorten the argument, that under the war power, the general government may impose upon the late rebel States the conditions of Mr. Sumner, including negro suffrage and a common school system, upon a footing of white and black equality, what would it all be worth, after the readmission of the States concerned, with the federal constitution untouched? It would be worth nothing. The Southern States, repossessed of the same powers as the Northern States, could and would immediately proceed to reconstruct their local affairs—such as the elective franchise, their common schools and police laws, to suit themselves—and Mr. Sumner's Massachusetts fabric of political and social equality would be speedily demolished. Our readers will remember that when, in the progress of the war, it became manifest that President Lincoln's emancipation proclamations would prove something more than "the Pope's bull against the comet," we contended that even if slavery were practically abolished by the war, it could, with the restoration of the rebellious States, be immediately re-established by them, and that nothing could prevent its revival except a prohibitory amendment of the federal constitution.

What course did we then recommend upon this question? Believing that the time had come, and that it would be the very best thing that could be done for the future peace and harmony and prosperity of the country, to make good and permanent the abolition of slavery, we earnestly led off in favor of the ne-

cessary amendment of the constitution. The proposition took root, it was acted upon in Congress, the amendment by the required two-thirds vote in each house was adopted and passed over to the States for their ratification; and now, three-fourths of all the State Legislatures having favorably responded, the thing is fixed. It becomes a part of the supreme law of the land. And here we may mention the remarkable fact that the words slavery, slave, slaves and slaveholders were carefully excluded from the constitution by its framers, and that "slavery" will first appear in that great charter with the abolition and prohibition of the institution.

We are contending, however, against these unconstitutional radical schemes of reconstruction as practically good for nothing, and as involving a worse than useless waste of time and agitation. We contend, too, that all the schemes of reform which these radicals have to offer beyond the authority of the constitution should be proposed as amendments to that instrument. Good or bad, there can be no objection to putting them to this test, for it is a test which nothing really pernicious can survive. Hence, when the Union State Central Committee of Pennsylvania ask Congress to start amendments to the constitution against the payment of the rebel debt or the repudiation of the national debt, or for the power to collect duties upon exports, or for a provision debarring any State from secession; or when Mr. Jenckes, of Rhode Island, proposes in the same way to secure the election of the President directly by the people, or when Mr. Delano, of Ohio, by the same authorized method proposes to "make it the duty of each State to provide for the rightful pursuit of happiness of all its inhabitants, without distinction of color or race," we have no objection to interpose. If the thing you offer be good, bad or indifferent, reasonable or premature, it will so appear in running the gamut of two-thirds of each house of Congress and three-fourths of all the States.

Entertaining the opinion that the country has outgrown it, we think that upon various important subjects the federal constitution needs enlarging or a clearer definition, both in regard to the powers of the general government and the reservations of the States and the people. We think that some amendments have become necessary from the tremendous revolution in the old order of things which has resulted from the late rebellion. We believe, too, that whatever may be proposed, it is only that which is beneficial that will pass the ordeal of three-fourths of the States, whatever absurdities may be proposed by two-thirds of the present Congress. At all events, if such radicals as Wilson and Sumner are sincere in their schemes of reform for which there is no authority in the constitution, they ought to seek to gain them in a constitutional way. If, in their extravagant and fanatical designs, they are simply laboring to embarrass the administration and to lengthen indefinitely the exclusion of the late rebel States from a voice in the general government, we still say, let them go ahead, so that the people may know how to deal with them in the elections for the next Congress.

The Theatrical Reform in this City.

The Managers' Association has lost another member. A minstrel hall, which has been a disgrace to the whole profession, and recently scandalized all theatrical people, is to be quietly superseded by a new and elegant theatre, under the management of Mr. George Wood, of the Broadway. Mr. Wood will carry on both his new and his old establishments. The renowned Solon Shingle will appear at the Broadway early in January, and take charge of that theatre and "that barrel of apple saw," while Mr. Wood devotes his special attention to the new concern, which is to be named after himself. His new theatre will seat about two thousand persons; the scenery for it is nearly ready; the alterations will be commenced next week; by the aid of an extra force of mechanics the house will be ready for occupancy in a fortnight after the commencement of the new year, and a large stock company will be engaged for the opening. Thus, at a single stroke, this metropolis is twice blessed—once in the abolition of the minstrel hall, which is to be closed, and again in the new, elegant and commodious establishment which is to be inaugurated. With Miss Rushton's New York Theatre, which begins business next Thursday, and with Christy's new hall, near Fifth avenue, and with Montpelier's circus, in the Bowery, this will make the fourth place of amusement which has been started since the associated managers began their foolish crusade against the independent press, and several others are in contemplation. Theatrical reform in this city is thus an accomplished fact, or rather a fact in process of accomplishment, and the efforts of the associated managers to prevent it are wholly impotent. We expect to see the time, and that at no distant day, when all our immoral places of amusement and their corrupt and ignorant directors are superseded by new theatres, properly conducted by able and enterprising men and women. The Legislature should aid us in this reform by imposing a license tax of five thousand dollars upon the badly managed establishments which now infest the metropolis.

The new French theatre is being pushed rapidly forward, and will be ready for Managers Juignet and Davenport by the time that they have concluded their present engagements. M. Juignet's troupe is now in Boston, where it has been very warmly welcomed by appreciative audiences. As we anticipated, the idea of small, closed boxes for the French theatre has proven most popular, and it will be carried out by the management. The double boxes of the Opera Comique at Paris—that is to say, the boxes with a small private parlor at the back—have always been extremely admired, especially by Americans, and we have often wondered why this feature was not adopted in our New York theatres. The new French theatre will probably open with a vaudeville company, Mr. Davenport's English artists playing four nights of the week, and M. Juignet's the other two. But arrangements have been made to import a number of French comic singers of the very best class, such as have never been heard in this country before. The decree of the Emperor, abrogating the theatrical license and giving every one liberty to open such places of amusement, has reduced the salaries of French artists by rendering it impossible for the few leading artists and establishments to regulate wages as they did when they had an exclusive monopoly. Taking advantage of this favor-

able circumstance, M. Juignet has entered the market and offered some of the best artists such good terms that they have agreed to come to this city next year. They are admirable actors as well as capital singers, and we shall see such light operas as *Fra Diavolo*, *Le Domino Noir* and *La Dame Blanche* produced in a style altogether superior to that of the Academy establisment. The French artists know how to act such operas. An Italian singer may be briefly defined as *vox preterea nihil*. He can sing, but he scarcely knows the meaning of what he sings, and is generally too awkward to express the sense of the words even should he be fortunate enough to understand it. But a French artist is a man of intelligence, of society, capable of achieving a reputation as an actor quite distinct from the reputation he has acquired by his fine voice. When such artists as these appear here and bring out the gay, lively, sparkling and charming one act and two act operettas, in which the Parisians so much delight, this metropolis will be obliged to admit that it has secured a new sensation. But the sensation will be all the more agreeable when it is enhanced by an elegant little thespian, divided into easy and convenient private boxes, filled with happy and refined family parties and musical, not only with the most delicious melodies, but with the merriest and heartiest laughter.

Senator Sumner and the Classics.

Senator Sumner has come to grief on his "Curiosity of Literature," in the December number of the *Atlantic Monthly*. General Garfield, having helped to finish the rebellion and laid aside his sword and revolver, has taken up his classical spear, and, by a single touch, has demolished the Senator's fanciful fabric in the Straits of Messina—with the Sirens singing themselves hoarse, Charybdis bellying to Scylla, Scylla howling to Charybdis, and Ulysses stopping the ears of his companions with wax, all at the same time and in the same locality—a piece of literary mosaic work with more utilities in it than the old classical drama. How the distinguished Senator got so mixed up is a marvel. We wonder now that he did not get in something about the political states of the Roman freedmen.

But General Garfield did not finish up his work as thoroughly as Grant did with the rebels. We read the Senator's article cursorily, and not only noticed the geographical blunder about the Sirens, but several other inaccuracies, which we proceed to point out.

At the foot of page 748 he speaks of "the Monastery of St. Gall, in France." We have heard of the great Benedictine Monastery of St. Gall, in the Swiss canton of that name; and we believe the French, in the Revolutionary or Consular period (we forget which), when they were knocking things into *pi* all over Europe, had something to do with secularizing its benefices. But when the Senator says St. Gall is in France, he is as much out of the way as he was in anchoring the Island of the Sirens alongside of Scylla, and we are constrained to say to him—"Mr. Sumner, you are weak in geography, both ancient and modern, and you must go down to foot."

At page 753 he speaks of "Palestine and Jerusalem, where a God was born of a virgin," &c. Where? In Palestine or at Jerusalem? This is very loose writing. Mr. Sumner, and is unworthy of you. We do not pretend to be strong in ecclesiastical history, but we have long had the impression that the Saviour of mankind was born in Bethlehem. We fear the Senator has neglected his New Testament as well as his Odyssey. But, after all, his mistake is not more remarkable than that of his Brother Beecher, who (with less excuse, being in the church), thought the Feast of the Resurrection came on Good Friday.

At page 751 the Senator quotes an anonymous Latin poet, who speaks of Lucan as singing "the praises of Cæsar" in the Pharsalia. Mr. Sumner ought to know that Lucan was one of Cæsar's chief traitors, and he should not have allowed this misrepresentation to pass without notice. Pompey was Lucan's hero. Of Pompey he says:—

—Stat magni nominis umbra;

and

Prostratus busto, semivivus membra relinquens, Degerenerat rogam, sequitur convexa Tonnant.

And of Cæsar he says:—

—Non in Cesare tantum Nomen erat, nec fama ductus;

and

—Gaudesque viam fecisse ruinam.

What should we think at this day of a writer who should place Pompey above Cæsar as a military leader? Niebuhr says:—"There cannot be a more unfortunate epic than Lucan's Pharsalia;" and his opinion is worth quite as much as the anonymous Latin poet's. Some of Lucan's comments on Cæsar's *Itinaria* with Cleopatra in his tenth canto ends the delicacies of the Strong case into the deepest shade. After all, what did he know about it? He was born eighty years after Cæsar's assassination; and his narrative no doubt consists of anecdotal picked up in the Roman Forum a century after Cleopatra's festivities with the great conqueror. Besides, Lucan was in bad humor when he wrote the last cantos of the Pharsalia. He and Nero were at loggerheads, like two school-boys, about their verses. Mr. Sumner's anonymous Latin poet ought to have said that Lucan sang the praises of Pompey; and if the Senator had been a thorough scholar, or had even read the Pharsalia, he would have corrected him. The truth is, Mr. Sumner should give up the classics as long as he is burdened with the foreign affairs of the country, or else he should take time to be accurate. By the by, we see that Mr. Speaker Colfax has put General Banks at the head of the Committee on Foreign Affairs in the lower House. Now that Massachusetts has a monopoly of Lord John Russell, Louis Napoleon, the Emperor Maximilian, President Juarez and Senator Ortega, besides the cotton factories, we hope that indefatigable industry will be sufficiently occupied without coming on here at short intervals, as has been their custom, to see whether our underpinning is in order.

One word more to Senator Sumner before parting. We do not intend to interfere with his vocation in the Senate. We leave to him all modern international matters. But in that department of our foreign relations which concerns the ancient Greeks and Romans we feel licensed, on general principles, to take an active part; and if he will go out of his proper domain and venture on classical ground, he must walk with circumspection or he will be tripped up, as we understand he has been once or twice in the Athens of America. He should bear in mind that he cannot make many more such false steps without getting the reputation of a superficial scholar.

The Herald and the Newspaper Press of the Country—The Great Fire.

In another part of the paper we reprint the original Herald report of the great fire that happened in this city on December 16, 1835—just thirty years ago to-day. We give also the diagram that we then laid before our readers of the burned district and the view of the Merchants' Exchange. We reproduce this account of an important event in the history of our city because of its peculiar interest in a journalistic point of view—as one great turning point between the press of the past and the press of the present.

At the time of the occurrence of the great fire the Herald was in its first year. It was a new idea—an attempt to bring the newspaper press nearer to practical life—to popularize it, and to make a newspaper a grand success by making it the absolute organ of the people. At that time the papers of the old class were great, dull, lumbering machines, full of advertisements and stupidity—truly, as they were called, "blanket sheets." They hardly touched those events that are of the most general interest in the life of the masses, because such events were beneath the "dignity of the press."

The editorials were tremendous sermons that no one could read. The contrast between those sheets and one full of life, energy and enterprise—one that gave beside other news a dagger-point of the local life—was clear from the first, and the Herald was a success. That success brought down upon it the anger of its lumbering opponents, and originated the torrents of abuse that were poured on us; for, though it was beneath the dignity of those heavy fellows to give reports of current events, it was by no means beneath their dignity to call hard names.

Our account of the great fire was then without parallel in the efforts of the press, and our cuts published, when it was hardly possible to get a wood engraver, were the first attempts of the kind to lay distinct information before the people. Altogether it was one of our great pieces of enterprise—one of the successes of the Herald—and with such successes came in the new era of journalism—the change which originated the independent press of the country as it now is. All our opponents were forced by our success to follow us—to modify their dull, heavy sheets till they were all more or less like ours, as they now are. They followed us, but always at a distance. This was so not only in the city, but all over the country; and it was through the impulse and shape that we gave it that the press of the country grew into its present position of power as a national institution.

The Star of Oregon Looming Up.—The first practical endorsement of